INF 335C – Information in Cyberspace
Syllabus

Unique Numbers: 27175

Semester: Spring, 2018

Instructor: Ramona Broussard, MSIS
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Office Hours: 5th floor UTA building, or online, by appointment.

Class Time and location: Online

Summary

Information in Cyberspace (INF335C) is a course designed for undergraduate students that provides an overview of the history and social impact of Internet and Web technology. INF335W emphasizes technology self-sufficiency and information literacy.

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to think about information technology in a critical, thoughtful manner. The goal is to pull back the curtain on some of the inner workings of information technology and empower students to navigate confidently through information spaces in networked environments.

Objectives

In this course students will learn:

- about technical applications that make the Internet possible;
- about political, financial, and social implications of creating content on the Internet;
- how to find, evaluate, and cite Information resources on the Internet;
- how to protect content and resources from malicious attacks.
- how to create content (such as Web pages) on the Internet.

Students will enact the following learning techniques:

- reading about history and current news related to information technology;
- discussing history and current news related to information technology; ;
- completing hands-on projects to practice presenting and assessing information

Course prerequisites

None

Required readings

Readings are available online via the course modules.

Assignments and grading

The course uses 8 modules. Each module is 2 weeks long, with the exception of the first module, which is only 1 week long. Each module will entail 3 assessment methods:

- *A quiz*: A quiz at the end of each module will cover the readings from the relevant module.
- *Class participation*: During each module, students will contribute thoughtful questions and responses in the class participation forums.
- *Individual projects*: The project will differ from module to module, but will include practicing written skills as well as technical skills such as HTML5.

Academic dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.

Late Assignments

It is important to complete your work on time, both so you can stay on track and so you can work with your fellow students. You will be docked 10% each day for every day late for any assignment. Plan ahead. This is an online course and you have between one and two weeks to ensure you complete everything on time. As there is no scheduled class time, you must be responsible for getting work done in a timely manner. There is much flexibility for when that happens throughout your schedule, so I will be very strict about excused late work.

Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Summary

It is our hope that this class will be an opportunity for you to explore new ideas, review established thoughts, and **approach information technology in a critical, thoughtful manner**. Our aim is to pull back the curtain on the inner workings of information technology and show you that an understanding of the basics can guide you to make good decisions, to protect yourself, and to navigate confidently through information spaces of all types.

High-level schedule

Learning objectives and due dates for the assignments will be posted on the first page of each module.

Each module contains:

- learning objectives for the module;

- 10-15 pages of introductory content on the topic, developed by the i335 team;
- 2-3 outside online audio, video, and reading assignments;
- 3 deliverables: a quiz, a participation post, and a project (you complete these!).

During module 1 you will have 1 week to complete the assignments. For modules 2-6 and 8 you will have two weeks to complete all the assignments and readings. You will have 1.5 weeks for Module 7. All work must be submitted by midnight on the specified as the due date. Assignments will include instructions for how they should be submitted as well as rubrics. Please ask if you cannot find the relevant instructions and/or rubrics.

Required Readings

All required readings for this course are available through the course modules. We will ask you to read articles from other schools and websites, watch online videos produced here or elsewhere, and work through online tutorials created by School of Information students.

Grading

Points for the **five instructional modules** come from three areas:

- **Class Participation**
- **Quiz**
- **Project**

Class Participation

In each module, you will make contributions to the discussion forum as part of the class participation assignment. You will also need to read and respond to several of your peers' posts throughout the semester.

Quiz

A short quiz will follow each module to test your comprehension of module content and outside readings.

Project

The project will differ from module to module but will incorporate skills taught throughout the course. It is important to start these projects early and contact your Instructor or GA early if you need help.

Prerequisites

While there are no prerequisite classes for INF335C, you should know the following questions before

taking this course:

- You need to contact your instructor to ask questions or get help at the first sign of trouble.
- You need to pay very close attention to the course home page to keep up with what's going on.
- You need to organize your time effectively so you can spend at least six hours a week working on this class.

Students who are unable to motivate and organize themselves, and especially those who don't communicate with their instructors or TAs, tend to be unsuccessful in a virtual classroom environment.

Although it is not necessary to be a computer expert to complete this course successfully, you do need to know the basics of operating a personal computer and navigating the Internet. You are expected to know how to...

- create folders and view the contents of a disk;
- open an application or program;
- send and receive e-mail;
- search the Internet.
- submit work that meets college-level writing standards.

If you don't know how to do these things, let your instructor know during the first week of class. We will be happy to sit down and show you how to do it.

Religious Holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Keep in mind that there are no in-person requirements for this class, so it is your responsibility to make a plan for how you can complete all work on time by the due date.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and that incidents of dishonesty will be reported. You can find more information about the UT honor code on their website: https://www.utexas.edu/about/mission-and-values