

Information in Cyberspace

empowering students to navigate the final frontier

INF335C

This is an online course.

There are no required texts - all required media will be in the course website.

Instructor Info

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 Email: mkmcgee@utexas.edu
 (please contact me through Canvas)
 Office hours: By appointment

TA Info

Email: ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu (include "McGee INF335C" in the subject line of your email)

Do NOT contact individual TAs through Canvas.

Both the instructor and the TAs will reply to student emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends, barring rare and extenuating circumstances. We recommend that you check your Canvas messages at least once a day.

Course Website

Login to the course Canvas page at canvas.utexas.edu

The syllabus for INF 335C includes course goals and objectives, grading policies, and an overview of assessments. Any announcements made within Canvas (the course Learning Management System) during the semester regarding deadlines, assignments, or other course information will supersede this syllabus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide undergraduate students with an overview of the **history and social impact of Internet and Web technology**. INF335 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, to pull back the curtain on the **inner workings of information technology**, and to empower students to navigate confidently through information spaces in networked environments.

This course aims to give students the tools to think critically about **networked information communication technologies** and their role as information consumers, producers, and leaders in the evolution of cyberspace.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

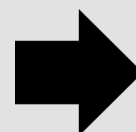
Students will learn about:

- technical **applications** that make the Internet possible;
- political, financial, and social **implications of creating content** on the Internet;
- finding, evaluating, and citing **information resources** on the Internet;
- protecting content and resources from **malicious attacks**

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 in a variety of contexts.

What's in this syllabus?



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HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS

Be aware that online courses require a higher level of self-motivation and self-pacing than most classroom-based course.

Monitor all of your communications through Canvas and through email at least once a day in order to keep up with the course.

Organize your time so that you can spend at least 6 hours a week working on this class.

Take note that there are strict deadlines for all assignments that you will be held responsible for meeting.

Participate civilly and ethically with your classmates in discussions and with your groupmates in projects.

COURSE POLICIES Q&A

What's the best way to contact my instructor?

Send a Canvas Inbox message to your instructor first, and if you don't hear back within a day, email them at the address provided. **DO NOT** send TAs Canvas messages - if you have a question for them, email ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu.

What do I need to know before taking this class? Are there any prerequisites?

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, and search the Internet. If you don't know how to do those, contact your instructor or TA and we will gladly help you out!

Do I have to attend any class sessions? What does attendance look like in an online class?

You're in luck! We do not have any regularly scheduled meetings - but we do have **strict deadlines** for all of the assignments in this course that you must plan carefully for. Submit your assignments ahead of the deadline in order to avoid any schedule conflicts.

Will any late assignments be accepted?

Late quiz and discussion assignments **will not** be accepted for any credit, except in cases of serious, multi-day (well documented) illness or emergency. You will **receive a zero** if you do not submit these assignments on time. Computer problems, network outages, and other "technical" issues will not be considered a valid excuse for submitting an assignment late, so make sure you submit your work early.

Please note - we use the **Canvas upload time** as the official time of submission. If you submit your assignment even one second after the recorded deadline, Canvas will mark your assignment as late and you will receive a zero for that assignment.

What is the course policy regarding plagiarism and academic honesty? Can I use Wikipedia?

All work that you submit must be your own. Any plagiarism such as copying and pasting from Wikipedia or presenting another student's work as your own, will result in no credit for the assignment, course failure, and/or referral for disciplinary action. **Ask for help** if you are unsure at any point about what might constitute plagiarism.

What if I need an accommodation because of a disability?

To determine if you qualify for academic accommodations because of a disability, please contact the Dean of Students at 471-6259; 471-4641 TTY. If they certify your needs, we will work with you to make appropriate arrangements.

What about religious or holy days?

If a religious or holy day will prevent you from completing any required activities, inform your instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

WHAT'S MY GRADE?

Your course grade will be based on a 200-point scale, with the following point breakdown for each of the tests and assignments in the course. All assignments are always due at 11:59 p.m. on the due date. **Please note: you must complete all parts of the final project (FP) to pass the course.**

Feel like your assignment was graded unfairly? Message or email your instructor within 48 hours of the grade's release and explain your reasoning.

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Max Points	Due Date	Details
Weekly Quizzes	28%	56	Sundays, 11:59pm	Each quiz is worth 4 points. Quizzes are open book - you can refer back to readings when you take the quiz.
Weekly Discussions	28%	56	Initial Post (2 pts) Fridays, 11:59pm Responses (1 pt each) Sundays, 11:59pm	Contribute weekly to online discussion forum to share what you know, ask questions, and challenge readings. The initial post must be 150 words minimum unless otherwise specified, Two replies to peers' posts must be 2 sentences minimum, and must move the conversation along - responses such as "I agree. This happened to me once" will not receive credit.
FPO	4%	8	Sun, 9/16	Choose the topic you want to follow throughout the semester. Further instructions in Canvas.
FP Test	.5%	1 (bonus point)	Sun, 9/30	Practice project using the video software you will use to complete that project. You must complete this assignment to unlock FP5. Further instructions in Canvas.
FP1-4	34%	68	FP1 - Sun, 9/30 FP2 - Sun, 10/21 FP3 - Sun, 11/4 FP4 - Sun, 11/18	Four short essays relating your chosen subject to topics covered in current modules. Further instructions in Canvas.
FP5	12%	24	Sun, 12/9	5 minute video presentation synthesizing what you have learned in FP1-4. Further instructions in Canvas.
Total	100%	200		

GRADING SCALE (POINTS)



185 – 200 points: A	145 – 152 points: C
180 – 184 points: A -	140 – 144 points: C -
173 – 179 points: B +	133 – 139 points: D +
165 – 172 points: B	125 – 132 points: D
160 – 164 points: B -	120 – 124 points: D -
153 – 159 points: C +	0 – 120 points: F

← (D- is the minimum for pass/fail students to pass)

COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

Module and Topic	Week	Due Dates	Assignments
1. Introduction to the Course	8/29-9/9	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz
2. Cyberspace, Internet, and the World Wide Web	9/9-9/16	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz FPO - Project Preparation
3. HTML Basics	9/16-9/23	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz
4. Information Control in Cyberspace	9/23-9/30	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz FP Test FP1 - Content Development
5. Information Search on the Internet	9/30-10/7	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz
6. Cybersecurity	10/7-10/14	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz
7. User Experience and Usability	10/14-10/21	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz FP2 - Content Development
8. Accessibility	10/21-10/28	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz
9. Copyright	10/28-11/4	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz FP3 - Content Development
10 Open Source	11/4-11/11	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz
11. Online Health Information	11/11-11/18	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz FP4- Content Development
12. The World of Social Media	11/18-11/25	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz
Thanksgiving Break	11/25-12/2		
13. Video Games	12/2-12/9	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz
14. Final Project and Wrap Up	12/9	Friday, 11:59pm Sunday, 11:59pm	Discussion - Initial Post Discussion Responses & Quiz FP5 - Final Submission