INF 335C - Information in Cyberspace: Interaction Design focus
Syllabus

Unique Numbers: 28145
Semester: Fall, 2017
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Office Hours: 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. INF 335 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. This section of 335 will be focused around topics that involve Usability and human-computer-interaction in online 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 in a variety of contexts.
Course prerequisites
None

Required readings
Readings are available online via the course modules.

Assignments and grading
The course consists of six modules. In a 9-week summer session, there will be a deliverable due every week. Each module will entail 3 assessment methods:

● A quiz (30-40 points each module): A quiz at the end of each module will cover the readings from the relevant module.
● Class participation (30-40 points each module): During each module, students will contribute thoughtful questions and responses in the class participation forums.
● Individual projects (30-40 points each module): 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.

Schedule
The schedule of concepts is made of of 5 main components:

1. Orientation to the course and search techniques
2. History of technical applications and networked computers
3. Protecting resources and content from malicious attacks
4. Copyright concerns for information in cyberspace
5. Accessibility, gender issues, and other social concerns for information in cyberspace

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.

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!).

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.

Class Participation

In each module, you will make contributions to the discussion forum as part of the class participation assignment. PLEASE NOTE: PART OF YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL BE DUE BEFORE THE END OF EACH MODULE.

Quiz

Each module will contain one or more quizzes (but not more than three) - these quizzes will follow from each module’s readings 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 early if you need help.

Prerequisites

While there are no prerequisite classes for i335, you should know the following questions before taking this course:

- You need to contact your instructors and TAs 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 or TA know during the first week of class. We will be happy to sit down and show you how to do it.