

INF 335W – Information in Cyberspace

Syllabus

Unique Number:	27665
Semester:	Fall 2015
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Office:	UTA 5.554 http://www.utexas.edu/maps/main/areas/admin.html
Office Hours:	In person – by appointment
TA:	TBD
Class Time and Location:	Online

Summary

Information in Cyberspace (INF335W) 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 in a variety of contexts.

Course Prerequisites

While there are no prerequisite classes for INF335, you should know the following 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.

Assignments and Grading

INF 335W consists of seven modules.

Most of the modules consist of three graded elements: 3 posts to the discussion boards, a quiz, and a project.

*PLEASE NOTE that the first post to the discussion forum is due at 5:00 pm on the first Friday of the module. Responding to the postings of your peers will be assigned a due date by Canvas on a per assignment basis.

High-Level Schedule

In this course, you will complete six primary instructional modules, which cover the basics of the following areas:

1. Orientation to the course and search techniques (3 weeks)
2. History of technical applications and networked computers (2 weeks)
3. Protecting resources and content from malicious attacks (2 weeks)

4. Copyright concerns for information in cyberspace (2 weeks + spring break)
5. Accessibility, gender issues, and other social concerns for information in cyberspace (2 weeks)
6. A module of the student's choice exploring a particular topic in more depth (3 weeks)

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;
- 2 or more deliverables: a quiz, a participation post, and a project.

**Module 1 includes an additional essay component.*

You will need to submit an initial participation post at the beginning of each module. You must also submit 2 responses to your peers' posts by the end of each module. All work must be submitted by midnight on the specified due date. Assignments will include instructions for how they should be submitted.

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.

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. No assignments will be accepted more than five days late unless pre-arranged with the instructor.

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.

Grading

Points for most of the modules come from three areas:

- Pre-Test
- Discussion Posts
- Quiz
- Project

Pre-Test

Before each module students will take a pre-test. The pre-test is worth five points, and points are assigned based on participation. We do not expect students to know the material already; this is a way for us to check your understanding and measure progress.

Discussion

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

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 TA early if you need help.

You will find your grades in the left-hand menu of Canvas. If you have trouble, contact your TA or instructor.

MODULE	DUE DATES	COMPONENTS	TOTAL POINTS
0	8/28 – 9/18	3 Discussion posts (30 pts) Quiz (10 pts) Essay (30 pts)	70
1	8/28 – 9/18	Pre-test (5 points) Discussion posts (30 pts) Project (40 pts) Quiz (30 pts)	105
2	9/18 –	Pre-test (5 points)	105

	10/02	Discussion posts (30 pts) Project (40 pts) Quiz (30 pts)	
3	10/02- 10/16	Pre-test (5 points) Discussion posts (30 pts) Project (40 pts) Quiz (30 pts)	105
4	10/16 – 10/30	Pre-test (5 points) Discussion posts (30 pts) Project (40 pts) Quiz (30 pts)	105
5	10/30 – 11/13	Pre-test (5 points) Discussion posts (30 pts) Project (40 pts) Quiz (30 pts)	105
6	11/13 – 12/4	Varies	105
TOTAL			700

Grade Conversions

Points	Percentage	Grade
651 - 700	(93% - 100%) =	A
630-650	(90% - 92%) =	A -
616-629	(88% - 89%) =	B +
574-615	(82% - 87%) =	B

560-573	(80% - 81%) =	B -
546-559	(78% - 79%) =	C +
504-545	(72% - 77%) =	C
490-503	(70% - 71%) =	C -
427-489	(61% - 69%) =	D (a D translates into a PASS for "CR/F")
0-426	(0%-60%) =	F (an F is not a passing grade)

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Please abide by the University's policy on academic integrity. All work you submit must be your own. "Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating and plagiarism... 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. University policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced." From: The University of Texas: General Information, Appendix C.

Special Needs

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To determine if you qualify, 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.

Religious or Holy Day Observance

"A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the 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."
<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi04-05/ch4/ch4g.html>

Email

"Electronic mail (e-mail), like postal mail, is a mechanism for official University communication to students. The University will exercise the right to send e-mail communications to all students, and the University will expect that e-mail communications will be received and read in a timely manner."
<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi04-05/app/appn.html>). Both the instructor and

the TA will reply to student emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends barring a rare and extenuating circumstance.

I look forward to working with you all this semester. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to email me!