INF 335W – Information in Cyberspace
Syllabus

Unique Number: 27666
Semester: Fall 2015

Instructor: Jeremy Selvidge
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Office Location: UTA, Fifth floor (Office number TBD)

Office Hours: By appointment (online and in-person)

TA: iSchool IT Lab TA Pool
      See contact information in Canvas

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; and
• how to create content (such as Web pages) on the Internet.

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, 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; and
- submit work that meets college-level writing standards.

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

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.

Schedule
In this course, you will complete an introductory module and six primary instructional modules, which cover the basics of the following areas:

0. Introduction and orientation to the course (3 weeks, concurrent with Module 1)
1. Orientation to the course and search techniques (3 weeks, concurrent with Module 0)
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)
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, including Thanksgiving break)

Assignments and grading

This course is broken down into seven different modules as outlined in the table below.

MODULE	DATES	COMPONENTS	TOTAL POINTS
0	8/27 – 9/18	Discussion posts (30 pts.) Quiz (10 pts.) Essay (30 pts.)	70
1	8/31 – 9/18	Pre-test (5 pts.) Discussion posts (30 pts.) Project (40 pts.) Quiz (30 pts.)	105
2	9/18 – 10/02	Pre-test (5 pts.) Discussion posts (30 pts.) Quiz (30 pts.) Project (40 pts.)	105
3	10/02 – 10/16	Pre-test (5 pts.) Discussion posts (30 pts.) Project (40 pts.) Quiz (30 pts.)	105
4	10/16 – 10/30	Pre-test (5 pts.) Discussion posts (30 pts.) Project (40 pts.) Quiz (30 pts.)	105
5	10/30 – 11/13	Pre-test (5 pts.) Discussion posts (30 pts.) Project (40 pts.) Quiz (30 pts.)	105
6	11/13 – 12/04	Varies	105
TOTAL			700

The number of discussions and quizzes may vary from module to module. Additionally, I reserve the right to adjust these point distributions as necessary to adapt to changes throughout the semester. I will inform you of any such changes.

Points for most of the 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. PLEASE NOTE: PART OF YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL BE DUE BEFORE THE END OF EACH MODULE.

Quiz
A short quiz (or quizzes) 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 early if you need help.

Grade conversions

(93% - 100%) =	A
(90% - 92%) =	A -
(88% - 89%) =	B +
(82% - 87%) =	B
(80% - 81%) =	B -
(78% - 79%) =	C +
(72% - 77%) =	C
(70% - 71%) =	C -
(61% - 69%) =	D (a D translates to PASS for "CR/F")
(0%-60%) =	F (an F is not a passing grade)

ALL assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. This applies to ALL students, including those taking the course for credit/no credit.

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. Please plan ahead. This is an online course with no scheduled class time—you must be responsible for completing your work in a timely manner. You have between one and two weeks per module to ensure you complete all assignments. Because of the flexibility with which you can complete assignments, I will be strict about penalties for late work.

You will receive a 10% deduction for each day that an assignment is late. No assignments will be accepted more than five days late unless pre-arranged with me. Additionally, because answers to quizzes are available at the close of each module,

quizzes cannot be completed late. You must submit quizzes by the due date, without exception.

If you anticipate that you will be unable to complete an assignment on time, please contact me so we can discuss your situation well before the assignment's due date.
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.

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.