INF 335W – Information in Cyberspace  
Syllabus

Unique Numbers  27405 and 27411  
Semester  Spring 2016  
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Office  UTA 5.414  
            http://www.utexas.edu/maps/main/areas/admin.html  
Office Hours  Online – varies weekly (see Canvas Announcements)  
            In person – by appointment  
Teaching Assistants  iSchool IT Lab TA Pool  
            email: ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu  
            Google Hangout: https://goo.gl/INZ54x  
            Skype: ischool.itlab  
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 of this course 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 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. In addition to course content, you will read articles from other schools and websites, watch online videos produced here or elsewhere, and work through online tutorials created by School of Information faculty and students.

Assignments and Grading
In this course, you will complete an introductory module and six primary instructional modules, which cover the basics of the following areas:
0. Orientation to the course (3 weeks)
1. Internet basics and search techniques (2 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;
- introductory content on the topic, developed by the INF335 team;
- online audio, video, and reading assignments;
- 2 or more deliverables: a quiz, a participation post, and a project (you complete these!).

*Module 1 includes an additional essay component.

Details about the discussion format and topics may vary with each module and will be shared prior to the beginning 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.

Points for most of the modules come from three areas:

- Class Participation
- Quizzes
- Projects

Class Participation

In each module, you will make contributions to the discussion forum as part of the class participation assignment. You will be expected to participate in the discussion forum throughout the week, not only at the end of each module. Details on discussion requirements will be discussed before the start of each module.

Quizzes
A pre-test will be required at the beginning of each module. This pre-test, worth two (2) points for Modules 2 through 6, will be graded for completion, not correct answers.

A traditional quiz will follow each module to test your comprehension of module content and outside readings. You may refer back to the module content and readings while you take the end of module quiz.

Projects

Projects 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.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1/19 – 2/9</td>
<td>3 Discussion posts (15 pts) Quiz (10 pts) Essay (30 pts)</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/26 – 2/9</td>
<td>3 Discussion posts (15 pts) Project (25 pts) Quiz (10 pts)</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2/9 – 2/23</td>
<td>3 Discussion posts (15 pts) Quiz (12 pts) Project (25 pts)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/23- 3/8</td>
<td>2 Discussion posts (10 pts) Project (25 pts) Quiz (12 pts)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3/8 – 3/29</td>
<td>2 Discussion posts (10 pts) Project (25 pts) Quiz (12 pts)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3/29 – 4/12</td>
<td>2 Discussion posts (10 pts) Project (25 pts) Quiz (12 pts)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4/12 – 5/3</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring Break (during Module 4) 3/14 – 3/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3/29 – 4/12</td>
<td>2 Discussion posts (10 pts) Project (25 pts) Quiz (12 pts)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4/12 – 5/3</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
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TOTAL POINTS 350
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.

Students should be aware that all required writing assignments may be submitted to a plagiarism-detection tool such as Turnitin.com. Turnitin is a software resource intended to address plagiarism and improper citation. The software works by cross-referencing submitted materials with an archived database of journals, essay, newspaper articles, books, and other published work. In addition, other methods may be used to determine the originality of the paper. This software is not intended to replace or substitute for the faculty member's judgment regarding detection of plagiarism.

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. **Late quizzes and discussions will not be accepted. You will receive a zero if you do not submit quizzes and discussions on time.** Late project submissions will be docked 10% per day late and will not be accepted more than five days beyond the due date. Please make sure you submit your assignments well in advance; computer problems, network outages, and other “technical” issues will not be considered a valid excuse for submitting an assignment late.

Plan ahead! Because this course has no scheduled meeting time, **you** must be responsible for getting your work done in a timely manner.

**If you are unable to submit an assignment on time, contact me as soon as possible** so we can determine a solution together. I am happy to consider extensions for special circumstances or events, but you must let me know well in advance.

Disabilities and Accommodations
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 512-471-6259 (voice) or 512-471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Grade conversions
Your final grade in the course will be calculated according to the following table.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>326 - 350</td>
<td>(93% - 100%)</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>315 - 325</td>
<td>(90% - 92%)</td>
<td>A -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308 - 314</td>
<td>(88% - 89%)</td>
<td>B +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>287 - 307</td>
<td>(82% - 87%)</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>280 - 286</td>
<td>(80% - 81%)</td>
<td>B -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>273 - 279</td>
<td>(78% - 79%)</td>
<td>C +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>252 - 272</td>
<td>(72% - 77%)</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>245 - 251</td>
<td>(70% - 71%)</td>
<td>C -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213 - 244</td>
<td>(61% - 69%)</td>
<td>D (a D translates into a PASS for &quot;CR/F&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 212</td>
<td>(0% - 60%)</td>
<td>F (an F is not a passing grade)</td>
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