ISP 381: Information and Privacy in Society
28655 | Fall 2021

Class Meets: Fridays, 1-4 pm, ECJ 1.312 | Saturdays, 1-4 pm, EER 1.516 | or Online
August 27-28, September 17-18, October 15-16, November 12-13, December 3-4

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Office: Fri, ECJ 1.312; Sat, EER 1.516
Office Hours: Fri & Sat 4-5 pm (Class weeks); By Appointment Otherwise
Office: Zoom
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office: Zoom
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

University Catalog Course Description
Examine how information is socially and culturally variable and fluid, changing throughout history and differing from place to place. Explore the anthropological study of information; societal norms; and individual, device, communal, and organizational information strategies.

What will I learn?
- Analyze, summarize, and integrate theoretical and practical perspectives on information, privacy, and society
- Understand that information is contextual, constructed, and contested.
- Identify and critically engage with major ethical, social, and technological concerns related to the design and management of information technology.
- Discuss and understand the relationship between information and society, including security and privacy of personally identifiable information and public/private information behaviors.
- Synthesize major theoretical and practical approaches to information security, and privacy.

How will I learn?
You will learn by:
- Completing the course readings prior to online lectures and class meetings.
- Completing online lectures prior to class meetings. Online lectures will include two regular activities: completing quizzes and writing discussion questions based on course readings.
- Engaging actively and respectfully in class discussions with instructors and your peers.
- Writing reflection essays and giving and receiving feedback from peers and from instructors.

How can I succeed in this course?
Be intellectually curious about the social and cultural dimensions of information security and privacy. Submit assignments on time. Be ready to learn across formats from course resources, instructors, and peers. Engage in productive discussions. Ask questions. Be proactive. Take ownership of your learning.
Required Materials
All readings and other required materials will be posted on Canvas (https://canvas.utexas.edu)

Required Devices
You will need to be able to access Canvas to download and view the readings, lectures, and assignments.

- For remote participation, ensure you have access to an internet-capable device capable of using Zoom, accessing Canvas content, playing videos, and drafting text.
- For on-campus participation, you have access to an internet-capable device capable of using Zoom accessing Canvas content, playing videos, and drafting text.

Classroom expectations

Assignments
To help create a rhythm, all written assignments will be due on Wednesday, except for the first weekend of meetings.

1. Attendance and Participation (20% | Meetings 1-10)
   Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in each scheduled class session. Participation will be measured through in-class discussions and activities. Students may participate in-person or via teleconferencing technology. Whether online or face-to-face regular participation is necessary. Some activities may differ depending on the mode of participation.

   Absences will only be excused in situations following university policy (e.g., illness, religious holy days, participation in university activities at the request of university authorities, and compelling absences beyond your control) with proper documentation and timely notification (i.e., prior to class for non-emergencies).

   Your attendance and class participation grade will be calculated by multiplying the numerical assessment of your class participation by the percentage of classes that you attend (with exceptions made for documented, university-recognized absences as noted above). Regular attendance and active participation in each class session are critical for receiving a good grade in this course. For example, by actively participating in each class, you will receive a full letter grade higher than if you were to skip half of the classes, or just show up without actively engaging in the course activities and discussions.

2. Quizzes (20% | Meetings 3-10)
   Quizzes will follow each online lecture which need to be completed by the due date before our weekend meetings. To be successful on the quizzes, complete the readings in advance and pay close attention to the online lectures.
3. **Discussion Questions (20% | Meetings 2-10)**
   
   You will submit one discussion question for each scheduled meeting, starting with Meeting 2. Submit your Discussion Questions via Canvas.
   
   Each discussion question will be an open-ended question, about 10-30 words in length that connects, synthesizes, and cites at least two of the assigned class readings for that meeting. Be sure to include the full reference in APA style. If you’re still unsure about how to cite in APA format, check out myriad online resources. We recommend: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/)
   
   Using an electronic citation generator? Be sure to double-check the results.

4. **Reflection Essays (40% | Meetings 1-10)**
   
   In each reflection essay, summarize what you learned from the readings, lecture, and discussions for each weekend. You are required to connect, synthesize, and cite (using APA format) every reading for each weekend (two meetings). Each essay should be organized around a clear, specific thesis and be 1000-1200 words in length. Submit each reflection essay on Canvas.

**Late Assignments**

Assignments are due by the deadlines specified in the course outline. Late assignments will be assessed a late penalty of two points per hour beyond the specified deadline (except in extraordinary circumstances such as severe and unavoidable technical difficulties (e.g., computer hard drive failure) or emergency situations (e.g., illness)).

**Grading Cutoff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Cutoff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
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### Course Outline & Schedule

All instructions, assignments, readings, rubrics and essential information will be on Canvas at [https://utexas.instructure.com](https://utexas.instructure.com). Check this site regularly.

**Changes to the schedule** may be made at our discretion as circumstances require. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced. We will do our best to ensure that you receive the changes with as much advanced notice as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Readings (Available on Canvas)</th>
<th>Assignments (due midnight CT unless otherwise noted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td>M2 Discussion Question (8/27, midnight)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>Information &amp; Human Values</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>M1 &amp; M2 Reflection Essay (9/1, midnight)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 17</td>
<td>Knowledge Infrastructures</td>
<td>Bowker &amp; Star, 2000, Edwards et al., 2013</td>
<td>M4 Quiz (9/15, midnight) M3 Discussion Question (9/15, midnight)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 13</td>
<td>Dis/Misinformation in the Age of Social Media</td>
<td>boyd, 2010, Jack, 2018, Lazer et al, 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Policies

Classroom Policies

Statement on Learning Success
Your success in this class is important to us. We all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that you feel prevents you from learning or excludes you, please let us know as soon as possible. Together we’ll develop strategies to meet your needs, the requirements of the course, and university policies. We also encourage you to reach out to the many student resources available through UT. Many of these resources are listed on this syllabus; however, we are happy to connect you with a person or Center if you prefer.

Statement on Flexibility
In acknowledgement of COVID 19 and its impact on the University of Texas at Austin community, this course will reaffirm one of the core values here at UT Austin: responsibility. Our responsibility to ourselves and each other is to put our humanity in the forefront of our academic pursuits. With that being said, we commit to being adaptable in this time of great need. If you experience any hardships such as illness, accident, family crisis, etc., please reach out to us as soon as you feel comfortable doing so. The earlier you can let us know, the better. We understand people have different privacy preferences. If, for any reason, you do not feel comfortable speaking with us directly about your situation, please reach out to Student Emergency Services. For additional campus resources, please visit https://coronavirus.utexas.edu/students.

Student Rights & Responsibilities
• You have a right to a learning environment that supports mental and physical wellness.
• You have a right to respect.
• You have a right to be assessed and graded fairly.
• You have a right to freedom of opinion and expression.
• You have a right to privacy and confidentiality.
• You have a right to meaningful and equal participation, to self-organize groups to improve your learning environment.
• You have a right to learn in an environment that is welcoming to all people. No student shall be isolated, excluded or diminished in any way.

With these rights come responsibilities:
• You are responsible for taking care of yourself, managing your time, and communicating with the teaching team and with others if things start to feel out of control or overwhelming.
• You are responsible for acting in a way that is worthy of respect and always respectful of others.
• Your experience with this course is directly related to the quality of the energy that you bring to it, and your energy shapes the quality of your peers’ experiences.
• You are responsible for creating an inclusive environment and for speaking up when someone is excluded.
• You are responsible for holding yourself accountable to these standards, holding each other to these standards, and holding the teaching team accountable as well.
Personal Pronouns
Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name, unless they have added a “preferred name” with the Gender and Sexuality Center, which you can do so here: http://diversity.utexas.edu/genderandsexuality/publications-and-resources/. We will gladly honor your request to address you by a name that is different from what appears on the official roster, and by the gender pronouns you use (she/he/they/ze, etc). Please advise us of any changes early in the semester so that we may make appropriate updates to our records. For instructions on how to add your pronouns to Canvas, visit https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028/pages/profile-pronouns.

University Resources for Students

**COVID-19 Update:** “Keep Learning” Resources
This course may be offered in a format to which you are unaccustomed. If you are looking for ideas and strategies to help you feel more comfortable participating in our class, please explore the resources available here: https://onestop.utexas.edu/keep-learning/

Land Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Indigenous land. Moreover, we would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to the Carrizo & Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Caddo, Tonkawa, Comanche, Lipan Apache, Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo, Tigua Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas, here on Turtle Island.” To learn more, consider:

- Land Acknowledgements from the Committee on Land Acknowledgement, Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS), The University of Texas at Austin
- Beyond Territorial Acknowledgements at Âpihtawikosisân.com; and the
- The Indigenous Cultures Institute

Land Engagements and/or Commitments
In recognition of the ongoing and cumulative challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples in Central Texas and globally, we call upon The University of Texas at Austin:

- To repatriate the ancestral remains held by the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory to their Indigenous descendant communities and Native lands.
- To commit to the active recruitment and material support of Native American and Indigenous students, who currently comprise fewer than 0.2% of UT Austin’s student body.
- To support the transition of the Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies into a Center.
- To establish a protocol of research and study on Tribal or Native lands, and to foster an ethics and practice of engaged scholarship, with and for Indigenous peoples and communities, locally and internationally.

Services for Students with Disabilities
The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so we can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please refer to SSD’s website for contact and more information: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/. If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to us as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.
Counseling and Mental Health Center
The Counseling and Mental Health Center serves UT’s diverse campus community by providing high quality, innovative and culturally informed mental health programs and services that enhance and support students’ well-being, academic and life goals. To learn more about your counseling and mental health options, call CMHC at (512) 471-3515.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, call the CMHC Crisis Line 24/7 at (512) 471-2255.

The Sanger Learning Center
All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center’s classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit  http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

- University Writing Center: http://uwc.utexas.edu/
- Libraries: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/
- ITS: http://www.utexas.edu/its/
- Student Emergency Services: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/

BeVocal
BeVocal is a university-wide initiative to promote the idea that individual Longhorns have the power to prevent high-risk behavior and harm. At UT Austin all Longhorns have the power to intervene and reduce harm. To learn more about BeVocal and how you can help to build a culture of care on campus, go to: https://wellnessnetwork.utexas.edu/BeVocal.

Important Safety Information

COVID-19 Update
While we will post information related to the contemporary situation on campus, you are encouraged to stay up-to-date on the latest news as related to the student experience. https://protect.utexas.edu/

Behavior Concerns & COVID-19 Advice Line
If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of fellow students, TAs or Professors, call BCAL (the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line): 512-232-5050. Your call can be anonymous. If something doesn’t feel right – it probably isn’t. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

Title IX Reporting
Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature occurs in our community, the university can:
1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university’s relevant policies.
Beginning January 1, 2020, Texas Senate Bill 212 requires all employees of Texas universities, including faculty, report any information to the Title IX Office regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that is disclosed to them. Texas law requires that all employees who witness or receive any information of this type (including, but not limited to, writing assignments, class discussions, or one-on-one conversations) must be reported. We are Mandatory Reporters (Responsible Employees) and must report any Title IX related incidents that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you would like to speak with someone who can provide support or remedies without making an official report to the university, please email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit http://www.titleix.utexas.edu/, contact the Title IX Office via email at titleix@austin.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-0419.

Although graduate teaching and research assistants are not subject to Texas Senate Bill 212, they are still mandatory reporters under Federal Title IX laws and are required to report a wide range of behaviors we refer to as unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, including the types of conduct covered under Texas Senate Bill 212. The Title IX office has developed supportive ways to respond to a survivor and compiled campus resources to support survivors.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures
The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, http://www.utexas.edu/safety/

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency

University Policies

Academic Integrity
Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code: “As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity.” Plagiarism is taken very seriously at UT. Therefore, if you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources. Otherwise, you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. You are responsible for understanding UT’s Academic Honesty and the University Honor Code which can be found at the following web address; https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/standardsofconduct.php

COVID-19, including guidance about safety, cloth masks in classrooms, and classroom guidelines, see https://protect.utexas.edu/learning/.
References


