UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

School of Information Studies

INFOST 910 – Doctoral Seminar in Organization of Information

2018 DRAFT SYLLABUS

Instructor: Richard Smiraglia
Location: NWQB 2569
Office hours: Tues. by appointment
E-mail: smiragli@uwm.edu
Phone: 414-229-1750
Fax: 414-229-6699

Meeting Times & Location: Thursday 2:00-4:40pm, Jan. 25-May 10 2018, NWQB2450

Catalog Description: In-depth and critical study of the historical, philosophical, theoretical, and methodological foundation of the science of knowledge organization. 3 credits.

General Description: Significant questions related to problems of information organization are identified and studied with close attention to theory-building through research. Emphasis is on autonomous student investigation, writing, and discussion. Students will conduct original research during the course of the semester; results are to be reported in the seminar. Note: this is not a survey or review course; rather it is a seminar—students will learn from each other as they conduct and present research under the professor’s guidance.

Prerequisite: INFOST 901 Current Issues in Information Studies

Objectives:

1) Students will enhance their ability to synthesize theories of knowledge organization and information science;
2) Students will create a contribution to theory in knowledge organization by conducting empirical research;
3) Students will master research methods in knowledge organization; and,
4) Students will contribute original research to conferences and journals in knowledge organization.

Method: The seminar will begin with an overview of basic concepts of knowledge organization (and we also will deal with the problem of the duality of the terms information organization and knowledge organization) and a review of classical literature, including philosophy, research methods, history, and theory. A major component of the seminar will be a thorough review of both
the 14th International Conference on Knowledge Organization held in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and the UDC seminar held in London in 2017. The final segment of the seminar will be based on students' self-selected research topics.

**Original Research:** Each student will conduct research on a topic of the student's choice in the broad area of knowledge organization.

Topics may fall into the following broad areas:

- the historical context for knowledge organization;
- problems related to metadata (e.g., resource description, subject headings, web metadata applications);
- knowledge representation (ontology, taxonomy, classification);
- domain analysis (works, content representation, content evolution, informetric analysis of domains); and,
- language processing (subject analysis, indexing, vocabulary control, thesaurus construction, etc.).

The research must contribute to theory. Students are encouraged to consult the professor to discuss topics and potential research methods. Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methodologies are encouraged.

**Texts for this Course**

These will be read in full (this list is chronological); students should consult the professor about acquiring copies, some will be made available in class; some are available as ebooks through the library:


The rest of the reading list for the seminar is extracted by the class from the list that follows:


**Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 25, 2018</td>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>Smiraglia <em>Elements of KO</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1, 2018</td>
<td>Theory</td>
<td>Wilson Svenonius Hjørland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8, 2018</td>
<td>Philosophy at the core of KO</td>
<td>Foucault, <em>What is an author</em>, <em>The order of things</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 16, 2018</td>
<td>Philosophy: Semiotic theory</td>
<td><em>The essential Peirce</em></td>
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ASSIGNMENTS:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>On this date</th>
<th>These are due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 8, 2018</td>
<td>Topic, Problem statement, Purpose statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2018</td>
<td>Background narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15, 2018</td>
<td>Literature review, revised Problem statement, Research questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29, 2018</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12, 2016</td>
<td>Results, discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19, 2016</td>
<td>Conclusions, Future research</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10, 2016</td>
<td>Final revised draft for submission</td>
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EVALUATION:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original research</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor’s discretion</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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GRADING SCALE:

| 96-100 | A    | 74-76 | C |
| 91-95  | A-   | 70-73 | C-|
| 87-90  | B+   | 67-69 | D+|
| 84-86  | B    | 64-66 | D |
| 80-83  | B-   | 60-63 | D-|
| 77-79  | C+   | Below 60 | F |

UWM AND SOIS ACADEMIC POLICIES

The following links contain university policies affecting all SOIS students. Many of the links below may be accessed through a PDF-document maintained by the Secretary of the University: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf). Undergraduates may also find the Panther Planner and Undergraduate Student Handbook useful ([http://www4.uwm.edu/osl/students/](http://www4.uwm.edu/osl/students/)). For graduate students, there are additional guidelines from the Graduate School ([http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/current/](http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/current/)), including those found in the Graduate Student and Faculty Handbook:

[http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/policies/expanded/](http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/policies/expanded/).

*Students with disabilities.* If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of a course, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students with disabilities are responsible to communicate directly with the instructor to ensure special accommodation in a timely manner. There is comprehensive coverage of issues related to disabilities at the Student Accessibility Center ([http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/](http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/)), important components of which are expressed here: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf).

*Religious observances.* Students’ sincerely held religious beliefs must be reasonably accommodated with respect to all examinations and other academic requirements, according to the following policy: [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm).

Please notify your instructor within the first three weeks of the Fall or Spring Term (first week of shorter-term or summer courses) of any specific days or dates on which you request relief from an examination or academic requirement for religious observances.
Students called to active military duty. UWM has several policies that accommodate students who must temporarily lay aside their educational pursuits when called to active duty in the military (see http://www4.uwm.edu/academics/military.cfm), including provisions for refunds, readmission, grading, and other situations.

Incomplete. A notation of “incomplete” may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantial cause beyond the student’s control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or some limited amount of other term work. An incomplete is not given unless the student proves to the instructor that s/he was prevented from completing course requirements for just cause as indicated above (http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S31.pdf).

Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment). UWM and SOIS are committed to building and maintaining a campus environment that recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of every person, fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect, and encourages the members of its community to strive to reach their full potential. The UWM policy statement (http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47.pdf) summarizes and defines situations that constitute discriminatory conduct. If you have questions, please contact an appropriate SOIS administrator.

Academic misconduct. Cheating on exams and plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, ranging from a failing grade for a course or assignment to expulsion from the University. See the following document (http://www4.uwm.edu/osl/dean/conduct.cfm) or contact the SOIS Investigating Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for more information.

Complaints. Students may direct complaints to the SOIS Dean or Associate Dean. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy (http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S49.7.htm).

Grade appeal procedures. A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow SOIS appeals procedures or, in the case of a graduate student, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School (http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm).