General Description

This course introduces basic issues in information science and information studies, including the nature of information, information services, information professions, information policy, information ethics, and the complex relationships between information technologies and society.

Competencies

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:
1. Understand and be able to relate concepts of information science and information studies;
2. Describe various institutions and technologies for the organization, storage, and retrieval of information, and relate their cultural, social, and political impact;
3. Possess general knowledge of current issues in information technology, information organization, the information professions, information policy, and information ethics.

Objectives

1. Combine theory and everyday examples to provide a broad-based introduction to the field of information science and information studies.
2. Connect current information-based institutions and technologies to their historical roots and with their cultural, political, and economic settings.
3. Investigate the impact of the development of technology on access to and use of information and the changes that this development causes in the structure and operation of society.

Course Details

No specific course prerequisites.
This course fulfills one of the requirements for the Digital Arts and Culture certificate. For more information on the DAC program, please visit http://dac.uwm.edu.
Required Textbook: None. Readings will be provided. Expect to read approximately 20-30 pages per class session, i.e. twice weekly. On average.
Prerequisites: None
Workload: Study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours for class contact in lectures, for laboratories, examinations, tutorials and recitations, and for preparation and study; or a demonstration by the student of learning equivalent to that established as the expected product of such a period of study. This 3-credit class will involve not fewer than 144 hours, or 9 hours per week. This is an average over each week, for an average-speed reader.
Method of Instruction and Learning

Online class.

Experiential and peer-based learning, lecture and discussion-based class work, complemented by film & media screenings, as well as readings.

Small group and individual assignments. This style of instruction and learning necessitates that all students participate in class discussions, projects, and activities. Thus weekly participation is necessary.

Course Schedule at a Glance

DUE DATES: All annotations & one+ discussion post due THURSDAYS. Assignments due SUNDAYS. Class leadership questions due WEDNESDAYS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>9/5-9/9</th>
<th>Introduction to the Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9/5: Review Syllabus // Read any one (or more) of the recommended readings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>9/10-9/16</th>
<th>2.1 What is Information? 2.2 The Information Society</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1: Information machine // Barlow // Debons, Ch.1 2.2: Moore // Links</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>9/17-9/23</th>
<th>3.1 Information Science History 3.2 Info Professions &amp; Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.1 Davis &amp; Shaw, Ch. 2 // Rowley 3.2: There’s an app for that // Benson // Links // Selected Positions // SLA Competencies // Bates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>9/24-9/30</th>
<th>4 Info Access &amp; Digital Divides ASSIGNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Mathiesen // Making the Internet Affordable // Malcolm // Digital Inclusion ASSIGNMENT due 9/30, 11:59 PM CST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>10/1-10/7</th>
<th>5.1 Info Systems: ADIK overview 5.2 Data Acquisition &amp; Info Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.1: Debons, Ch. 4 // APA video 5.2: Debons Ch. 5 (81-91) // Linked Open Data // Intro to the Semantic Web // Bawden &amp; Robinson Ch. 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>10/8-10/14</th>
<th>6.1 Data Transmission 6.2 Computing ASSIGNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.1: Faircloth, Ch. 2 // Links 6.2: After Moore’s Law // Video links ASSIGNMENT due, 10/14, 11:59 PM CST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your Instructor

Shannon Crawford Barniskis Email: crawfo55@uwm.edu

Email is the best way to contact me.

Office: NWQ-B room 6488

Office hours: I am happy to Skype, Hangout, chat or otherwise digitally meet, with an appointment. I can also meet on campus, with an appointment. If you need accommodations for a VISA or disabilities, please let me know immediately.
## Course Schedule at a Glance (continued)

### Week 7
10/15-10/21

| 7.1 Databases  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7.2 Algorithms &amp; Decision Systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 7.1 Faircloth Ch. 4  
| 7.2: Hickman // O’Neil TED // Sauter (pp. 3-19) |

### Week 8
10/22/-10/28

| 8.1 Ubiquitous Computing  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8.2 AI &amp; Machine Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8.1: Mosco // Regalado // Cha // IoT examples // Links  
| 8/2: Lewis-Kraus // Do You Trust This Computer? |

### Week 9
10/29-11/4

| 9.1 Data Science & Analytics  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9.2 Big Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9.1: Cady (pp. 9-17) // EMC (pp.1-24) // Stephens-Davidowitz  
| 9.2: Videos (you will be assigned 1 of these)  
| ASSIGNMENT due 11/4, 11:59 PM CST |

### Week 10
11/5-11/11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10 Privacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chew &amp; Stamm // Tufecki TED // Greenwald TED // Dwoskin &amp; Timberg // Sly // Manning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Week 11
11/12-11/18

| 11.1 Info Security  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11.2 Info Ethics &amp; Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 11. 1: Zetter // Cybersecurity Workforce Framework // Faircloth Ch. 5 // Granville  
| 11.2: Marek // Codes of ethics links  
| ASSIGNMENT due 11/18, 11:59 PM CST |

### Week 12
11/19-25

| 12.1 TBD  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12.2 THANKSGIVING BREAK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 12.1: This session is for you to determine. What would you like to learn more about? Readings TBD  
| 12.2: THANKSGIVING BREAK--Enjoy! |

### Week 13
11/26-12/2

| 13.1 Display & Visualization  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13.2: UX &amp; Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 13.1: Data visualization links // McCandless  
| 13.2: Lowdermilk// Nielson // Links  
| ASSIGNMENT due 12/2, 11:59 PM CST |

### Week 14
12/3-12/9

| Poster Design  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 14: How to design & deliver a poster  
| FINAL PROJECT Due: 12/9 11:59 PM CST |

### Week 15
12/10-12/13

| Group Projects Presentations,  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 15: Presenting & discussing projects in Online forum  
| PROJECT REVIEW Due 12/13, 11:59 CST |
Reading List

Learning Activities & Assessment

**Credit Breakdown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotations</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Annotations 20 pts**

You will be required to annotate some readings online via the Persuall app. These social annotations help you all learn from the readings & from each other. 5+ quality annotations for credit. Due each week on THURSDAYS by 11:59 pm CST.

**Diving In 10 pts**

You will create an annotated bibliography about your system with at least 4 scholarly articles, and 3 non-scholarly ones, focused on the issues that interest you.

What is your system all about? History, development, audience

Due 9/30 11:59 PM CST in Canvas.

**Data Aquisition & Organization 10 pts**

How is information acquired and organized in your system? Databases, knowledge organization, information retrieval

Due 10/14 11:59 PM CST in Canvas.

**Computing 5 pts**

How does your system compute? Analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and algorithms.

Due 11/4 11:59 PM CST in Canvas.

**Display & Visualization 5 pts**

How does your system display & communicate information? Human factors and data visualizations.

This will be a partnered activity.

Due 12/2 11:59 PM CST in Canvas.

**Final Project 25 pts**

You will be presenting a virtual poster or very brief powerpoint about the area of your information system that is of most interest. You will be selecting the systems of interest to you early on in the course, on a first-come first-served basis. Then you will be exploring different facets of this same system throughout the course. Due 12/9 11:59 PM CST in Canvas.

Sample systems include: Twitter, Netflix, Internet-connected light bulbs, and so on.

You will be sharing your poster with the class in a 3 minute presentation. You will also be assessing your colleagues’ projects. Reviews are due 12/13 in Canvas.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Participation 15 points**

Your group will lead a class discussion a couple of times during the semester. This will entail creating questions on the discussion board, steering the discussion, and evaluating it at the end. Leaders upload questions by WEDNESDAYS, 11:59 PM.

Participation involves engaging in these discussions and with all course materials. 1st discussion posts due by THURSDAYS, 11:59 pm CST, 2+ by SUNDAYS, 11:59 CST.

**Social Issues 10 points**

How does your system act as a constitutive force in society? Social issues to consider in light of your system, including analysis of Mathiesen’s 15 factors of access (each individually) 10 points. Assess privacy, security.

Due date 11/18, 11:59 PM CST.
Course Policies

Atmosphere for Learning
Students are encouraged to participate in open and frank discussions of the course material, but are also expected to respect the other students and to engage in discussion and debates in a sensitive and respectful manner. Please be open to exploring and critically assessing your own biases, and the philosophies embedded within the technologies.

Attendance Policy
Life happens. Thus you may miss two class sessions (including the annotations, taking in content and participating in any discussion for a that session) without penalty. After that, each unexcused absence drops you one full [A to B, B- to C-, etc.] letter grade. You will fail this course if you have 6 or more unexcused “absences.”

Grading Policy
I know how much work students put into their assignments and projects, as well as how anxious a student can become if they do not know how they are doing in a class. I aim to respond in a way that will address these issues respectfully. My policy is to return exams and assignments generally within a week. Any appeals to grades must be done in person (no email) within a week of an assignment being returned, and the instructor’s word is final, unless the student chooses to appeal under UWM policy (see p. 8). Also see the Academic Misconduct policy on p. 7.

Special Considerations
Please don’t ask for extensions, make-up assignments, or special extra credit. Here is UWM’s policy on “special consideration,” which I strive to follow closely:
Special Consideration. The principle of equal treatment of all students shall be a fundamental guide in responding to requests for special consideration. No student should be given an opportunity to improve a grade that is not made available to all members of the class. This policy is not intended to exclude reasonable accommodation of verified student disability, or the completion of work missed as the result of religious observance, verified illness, or justified absence due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/policies/saap/upload/S29.htm

You Contacting Me & Me Contacting You
By email: crawfo55@uwm.edu Email is the best way to contact me. I will respond to class-related emails during normal work hours, and will generally reply with 24 hours. Please be sure to use your UWM e-mail account, identify yourself and the course. Make sure to add a subject line.

By phone, etc.: If we determine that it would be best to chat, Skype, etc. we can set this up via email.

Your email & Canvas: You should check your UWM email and Canvas accounts regularly since I will use them to keep you informed about any changes to the course. You are responsible for receiving, reading, and responding to any and all email messages and Canvas announcements; if you normally use another account you may consider forwarding your UWM email to the other account. However, be aware that such forwarding is not always 100% reliable.

Why does this course exist?
In our knowledge and information-intensive society, information is key, and the acquisition, transmission, computing and sharing of that information encompasses entire careers fields of study. This survey course offers an orienting view into the many areas of interest this field spans, touching on a variety of topics to give a sense of the whole. It covers both technical issues and social ones, and allows you to decide where to focus your attentions next.

What a Week in This Class Might Look Like
Monday-Thursday: Read & Annotate course materials, watch lectures.

Wednesday: If your group is leading the discussion post your discussion prompts by the end of the day at 11:59 pm CST.

Thursday: Annotations are due, and first post (at least) is due by 11:59 pm CST.

Sunday: Upload any assignments that are due by Sunday at 11:59 pm CST.

KEY POINTS: Make sure you take some time to spend with family and friends, and take care of yourself too! You will have to organize your time wisely to juggle this and also work, etc. If you can only work on weekends, you will have to read ahead and do annotations for the following week during the weekend, and just be sure to comment in forums on Thursdays.

https://www.xkcd.com/1269/
# 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

Undergraduates may also find the Panther Planner and Undergraduate Student Handbook useful.

http://www4.uwm.edu/dos/student-handbook.cfm

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## 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/arc

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## 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

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.

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## Examinations, Finals

The Secretary of the University is authorized to prepare the final examination schedule. The time of the final examination for an individual or a class may be changed only with the prior approval of the dean or director of the respective college/school. The change will involve a postponement to a later date. For individuals with exam conflicts, a separate week at the very end of the exam week will be reserved to take one of the conflicting exams.

http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

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## 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, including provisions for refunds, readmission, grading, and other situations.

https://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/

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## Canvas & Student Privacy

This course utilizes CANVAS to facilitate online learning. CANVAS provides instructors the ability to view both individual data points and aggregate course statistics, including the dates and times individual students access the system, the pages a student has viewed, duration of visits, and the IP address of the computer used to access the course. This information is kept confidential in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), but may be used by the instructor for student evaluation within the constraints of this particular course.

http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

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## Academic misconduct

Cheating 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 linked document or contact the SOIS Investigating Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for more information.

https://uwm.edu/academic-affairs/faculty-staff/policies/academic-misconduct/

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## Complaints

Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Dis crimina_duct_Policy.pdf

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http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm
Incompletes

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 substantiated cause beyond the student’s control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work.

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf

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 the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, 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

Discriminatory conduct, Title IX/Sexual Violence, LGBTQ+ resources

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.

UWM policy statement summarizes and defines situations that constitute discriminatory conduct. If you have questions, please contact an appropriate SOIS administrator.

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47_Discrimination_duct_Policy.pdf

UWM policy prohibits discriminatory conduct, including sexual violence, which may include sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking in all educational programs and education-related areas. UWM strongly encourages its students to report any instance of sex discrimination to UWM’s Title IX Coordinator (titleix@uwm.edu). Whether or not a student wishes to report an incident of sexual violence, the Title IX Coordinator can connect students to resources at UWM and/or in the community including, but not limited to, victim advocacy, medical and counseling services, and/or law enforcement.

http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

CANVAS Help

For help in working with Canvas, go to: https://kb.uwm.edu/cetl/internal/page.php?id=82928

PASS

Panther Academic Support Services can make a huge difference. If you feel like you’re just not doing as well as you’d hoped, they provide all kinds of support groups, tutoring, software, and other help.

http://www4.uwm.edu/pass/

Send PASS a Text: Send your question or request via SMS to (414) 97-EXCEL or (414) 973-9235

Ask a Librarian

Many students think they never need enter the library, and that they can accomplish all the research they need online. But often the library has resources and help you have no idea even exists. Just speaking to a research librarian can make projects go far more simply, because they can often think of other search terms or resources that you don’t know about. Visit the Ask a Librarian Desk, (located on the first floor, west wing) for help using the library, and/or get in-depth assistance with a research consultation:

http://uwm.edu/libraries/user-services/consultation/

Need Other Help?

Check out The Writing Center

The Writing Center is open to all UW-Milwaukee writers, current freshmen through graduate students, staff and faculty. Whether face to face or online in real time, you can meet one on one and confidentially with a qualified tutor to discuss any kind of writing project. All subjects and skill levels are welcome. Schedule help EARLY in the semester. Really. My advice is: for all your courses, make appointments early on, so you don’t have a problem at the end of the semester when everyone else is also seeking help. Locations: Curtin Hall 127; Library East Wing http://www4.uwm.edu/writingcenter

CANVAS Help

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Many students think they never need enter the library, and that they can accomplish all the research they need online. But often the library has resources and help you have no idea even exists. Just speaking to a research librarian can make projects go far more simply, because they can often think of other search terms or resources that you don’t know about. Visit the Ask a Librarian Desk, (located on the first floor, west wing) for help using the library, and/or get in-depth assistance with a research consultation:

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The Writing Center is open to all UW-Milwaukee writers, current freshmen through graduate students, staff and faculty. Whether face to face or online in real time, you can meet one on one and confidentially with a qualified tutor to discuss any kind of writing project. All subjects and skill levels are welcome. Schedule help EARLY in the semester. Really. My advice is: for all your courses, make appointments early on, so you don’t have a problem at the end of the semester when everyone else is also seeking help. Locations: Curtin Hall 127; Library East Wing http://www4.uwm.edu/writingcenter

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