

LIS 2000: Introduction to Information & Society, Fall 2020

Louisiana State University, School of Library & Information Science

Course Information

Instructor

Carol Barry, Associate Professor

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Teaching Assistant

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Meeting Time

Asynchronous via Moodle

Office Hours

Dr. Barry: By appointment

Ms. Wilson: TBA

Course Description

The course introduces information as a concept, and its changing roles, uses, and meanings in contemporary society

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Define “information”
- Explain how different segments of society utilize information to achieve goals and objectives
- Describe the evolution of information creation, dissemination and consumption
- Describe the power dynamics of information creation, dissemination, and consumption

Communication Objectives

The course assignments and activities are designed to help you develop your communication skills by providing you with the opportunity to:

- Write both formally and informally about course topics.

- Practice critical reading skills such as the identification of major aspects, analysis of bias, and ability to link material to the broader course topics and real-world experiences.
- Find and discuss content from other sources, identify key aspects of the content and connect it to our course and course themes.
- Efficiently and effectively communicate with your instructor and with each other to successfully complete the course.

Communication

Students must use the Moodle site created for this class to view class slides and communicate class related questions or suggestions to the instructor and classmates.

Method

Lecture/Discussion/Hands-on Exercises/Reading

General Education

This course is a general education course in the Social Sciences Area, and addresses students' achievement of the following General Education Competency: LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of factors associated with global interdependence, including economic, political, cultural, and linguistic factors.

C-I Course

This is a certified Communication-Intensive (C-I) course which meets all of the requirements set forth by LSU's Communication across the Curriculum program, including

- instruction and assignments emphasizing informal and formal writing;
- teaching of discipline-specific communication techniques;
- use of feedback loops for learning;
- 30% of the course grade rooted in communication-based work; and
- practice of ethical and professional work standards.

Students interested in pursuing the [LSU Distinguished Communicators certification](#) may use this C-I course for credit.

Information for Students with Disabilities

LSU policy requires a student who claims disability status to make a formal request for accommodation through the [Office of Disability Services](#), 115 Johnston Hall, phone 225-578-5919. This office provides the necessary evaluation and recommendations to ensure full participation in the course.

Time Requirement

Successful completion of the course will require approximately three hours of outside work for each credit hour. Students in this three-credit course should expect to spend nine hours a week outside of class on class work and preparation.

Required Textbooks

There are three required textbooks for this course which are available as free e-books through LSU Libraries:

William Aspray and Barbara M. Hayes (eds.). *Everyday Information: The Evolution of Information Seeking in America*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011.

John P. Feather. *The Information Society: A Study of Continuity and Change*. 6th Ed. London: Facet Publishing, 2018.

Michael Buckland. *Information and Society*. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2017

The remainder of class readings will be provided on the class Moodle page.

Course Week

This course will operate as a Monday-Sunday class. This means Monday will be the start of each week, and Sunday will be the end of each week.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Textbook readings will be identified by author's last name and chapter(s).

Week 1: Syllabus Review

Aspray & Hayes, Introduction

Week 2: What is "Information"?

Feather, Introduction

Buckland, Chapters 1 & 2

Week 3: From Script to Print

Feather, Chapter 1

Week 4: Mass Media and New Technology

Feather, Chapter 2

Buckland, Chapter 3

Week 5: Digital Divide Part 1

Feather, Chapter 4

Pew Research Center (2015). [*Americans' Internet access: 2000-2015*](#).

Week 6: Digital Divide Part 2

Feather, Chapter 5

Week 7: Midterm Exam

No readings

Weeks 8 & 9: Information Organization & Seeking

Buckland, Chapters 4-7

Week 10: Information Economy

Feather, Chapter 3

Week 11: Information & Democracy

Feather, Chapter 6

Aspray & Hayes, Chapter 8

Week 12: Information Privacy

Selections from: Richards, N. (2015). *Intellectual privacy: Rethinking civil liberties in the digital age*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Weeks 13 & 14: Social Networks & Society

Aspray & Hayes, Chapters 6 & 10

Week 15: Intellectual Property & Censorship

Selections from: Vaidhyanathan, S. (2001). *Copyrights and copywrongs: The rise of intellectual property and how it threatens creativity*. New York: NYU Press.

Selections from: Lewis, A. (2007). *Freedom for the thought that we hate: A biography of the First Amendment*. New York: Basic Books.

Final Exam

Posted December 7 and due December 10 at 11:55 pm.

Course Requirements & Evaluation

Readings & Lecture

For each week, the readings and lecture videos will be posted on Moodle no later than 12:00 pm (noon) on Mondays.

Attendance & Participation (15%)

Attendance in an online class is just as important as it is for a face-to-face course. The lectures for each week are broken into online Moodle Books. Each week you will be required to complete an exercise, reflection post, or short quiz. These weekly activities are worth up to 10 points towards your attendance grade. At the end of the semester, your lowest weekly grade will be dropped.

Midterm (25%) & Final Exams (25%)

The midterm and final exams will be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. The exams will be a timed, online, open book and note structure. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Semester Essay Assignment (35%)

During the second half of the semester, you will write a comparative essay focused on a particular aspect of the digital divide within the United States and another country (or international region). The

essay will be developed in multiple stages including proposal, outline, drafting, peer review, and final version. More details will be discussed during the semester.

Grading Breakdown

Attendance & Participation: 15%

Midterm Exam: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Essay Assignment: 35%

Submission of Assignments and Grading Policy

Written assignments are due on the specified date by 11:55 pm submitted via Moodle. Work submitted late without an acceptable excuse will be downgraded 10 points per week (or portion thereof) it is submitted late. Acceptable excuses must be submitted to the instructor via email and approved prior to the assignment deadline.

You may not resubmit work that has already been used in fulfillment of the requirement of this or any other course. Rules of academic conduct require that you not use the work of others without clearly indicating it as such. Academic misconduct will result in being reported to the LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability office. All students are required to know and abide by the [University's Policy for Academic Integrity and the LSU Code of Student Conduct](#).

It is expected students will consult and appropriately cite the research and professional literature where merited. Grades will also be reduced for papers that include irrelevant content to "fill up space" to meet the length specifications for a paper. Please rely on either the Chicago or APA citation style manual for your submissions. These are available in the library, bookstore or may be purchased through online book vendors.

Grading Scale

99-100	A+
94-98	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
<60	F