IST601 Course Syllabus- Fall 2011

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Meeting day/time: Monday 12:15-3:05PM
Classroom Location: Husted 204

IST601 provides a theoretical background for students entering the information science professions. Through guest speakers, field trips, a variety of readings, class discussion, lectures, and writing assignments, students gain knowledge of the critical themes in the field, such as information seeking, users, environments, policies, and ethics.


IST601 is designed to help students meet the following Goals and Objectives of the Department of Information Studies:

1. Demonstrate a sense of professional identity by applying the concepts and principles of library and information sciences and related disciplines.

2. Know the history of the information professions and understand the changing roles of information professionals in a global environment.

7. Promote and demonstrate the use of ethical standards in the creation, management, and use of information.

8. Conduct and apply research to develop, maintain, and evaluate information content and assess information services.

9. Understand, implement and use appropriate technologies in the delivery of information content and services.
Goals/Objectives #1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 will be assessed using the following assignments aligned to corresponding rubrics (i.e., writing rubric, group presentation rubric, peer evaluations, and paper/presentation checklists.

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Objectives for Students

It is expected that students who finish this course will have an understanding of:

- The historical, social and economic context of formal and informal information activities, technologies and services;
- The different types of formal settings-political, economic, institutional, educational, technological-within which information is processed;
- The ways in which information is created, organized and distributed, and how it is sought by users;
- The critical issues within the information profession-ownership, privacy, free access, cost, censorship-and the ethical and social conflicts and issues involved;
- An understanding of how information environments are similar, different, evolve and provide different purposes for creators and consumers.
- An understanding of new and emergent technologies to deliver information content and services.

Assignments

1. Virtual Introduction (5%) - due before the first class meeting


3. Group Assignment: Field Study Project Paper and Presentation (25%) - 1st Group November 30; 2nd Group December 7th
4. Special Topic Literature Review Paper (30%) - November 16th

5. Self and Peer Evaluations (x2) (10%) - due immediately following group presentations

6. Guest Speaker questions (x3) (5%) - due the week before the speaker’s presentation

Attendance, Communication, Grading & Academic Honesty

Attendance: Attendance will be taken each week. In the unavoidable event of an absence, students should make arrangements with other students to pick up class notes and assignments. Time will be given during the first meeting of class for students to find study partners. **Students who miss more than 2 classes will have their final average dropped by five points for each additional absence.** This course will depend heavily upon guest lectures and student involvement. The class meets for approximately three class contact hours each week. Homework should take at least three hours per each contact hour. You will need to devote at least 12 hours per week to this class (**3 hours in class and 9 hours outside of class**).

Snow Contingency Plans: In the event of inclement weather the instructor will hold class "online" for the missed course session(s). Students will be notified as early as possible via email that the class has been cancelled and online activities will be provided.

Communication: Each student is expected to have an Albany e-mail account for this class. Please see the instructor if you do not have an account or if you have questions about how to get one. Students will need to check e-mail several times a week. This is also the best method of communication with the instructor concerning assignments, questions, readings and office hours. E-mail accounts can be applied for and accessed in the Draper user room (UNIX). See the door of the computer room for times. Each student should also subscribe to IST-L, the Department of Information Studies' listserv.

When sending email to me please include IST601 and your first & last name in the subject header (ex: IST601 Jennifer Jones).

Grading: The instructor will give a grade of "R" (rewrite) for any paper that does not meet graduate level standards. Students will have one week to rewrite the paper and resubmit it (together with the first graded submission) for a new grade. The "R" grade will be removed at that time if the rewrite is substantially improved. Remembering to hand in the rewrite is the student's responsibility. Late rewrites will NOT be accepted. A grade of "B" will be given for student performance that meets all course requirements on time and is judged satisfactory at the graduate level. Other grades will be determined in relation to the standards of a "B" grade. Please proofread all papers carefully before submitting.
**Academic Honesty:** Due to the exploratory nature of this course, students are encouraged to form study groups and to talk about and read each other's assignments - in effect to "share knowledge." Learn by interacting with one another - collaborate, support, and help one another. Nonetheless, students are expected to give credit where credit is due, citing the work and ideas of others in papers that they write. As a policy for this course, plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, the instructor will pursue further disciplinary action at the University level. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment in which the plagiarism occurred, a zero for the course and a referral to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. After two referrals to the Dean's office for plagiarism students are automatically referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. Please read the "Standards of Academic Integrity" in the Undergraduate Bulletin 1999-2000 at: [http://www.albany.edu/tree-tops/docs/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/tree-tops/docs/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html). The standards described in this document will be upheld in this course.

**Becoming a Participant in this Learning Community**

Your participation is the learning experience. This is not a passive experience. You're being invited to design, shape, and pursue a learning experience that meets your needs and benefits your classmates and me.

To that end, there are some things that would quickly erode our community and so must be avoided. These will be sufficient reason for you to fail the course immediately.

- Missing more than 2 classes without **prior** permission from me or the dean of undergraduate studies
- Lateness without **prior** permission from me
- Abusiveness toward instructors, classmates, or our learning partners
- Non-class related use of mobile phones, instant messenger, email, or other non-class related resources.