Course Description

Introduction to the Internet and World Wide Web. Information literacy in technology and online information resources. Using, finding, evaluating, and producing information on the Internet. Only one version of I INF 100X may be taken for credit. 
http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/i_inf.html

A More Detailed Description

This course will provide the student with a methodology for discerning the relevance, accuracy, and applicability of information available from different resources, including the Internet, libraries, news sources and other sources of information. The primary emphasis of the class is on discovering reliable information sources for any and all subjects so that a student's future research and other pursuits are supported by the methods developed in this course. Each student is called upon to fortify their own individual communication and reasoning skills and will demonstrate the use of those skills through course assignments, class presentations and group activities.

Prerequisites

Basic writing skills are needed, some Internet exposure is desired.

Course Goals

By the end of the semester, you should be able to
- Goal #1: Find and evaluate information on any given subject from a variety of sources.
- Goal #2: Determine the best source of information based on a particular subject.
- Goal #3: Present information in succinct, professionally written form.
- Goal #4: Confidence in the ability to distinguish reliable, accurate information from unsuitable or inaccurate information.
- Goal #5: Command over the use of the University at Albany Library Systems Internet Interface, including Minerva, on-line Databases, and all the University's On-Line resources.
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Course Objectives:

Students who complete the course should be able to demonstrate a knowledge of:

- the Internet and the World Wide Web;
- Basic XHTML code;
- Search engines and Boolean operators;
- Developed search strategies;
- Framework for evaluation criteria;
- Underlying information structure for an information source;
- The University Libraries’ catalog;
- Other resources and services of the University Libraries;
- Social, legal and ethical issues with information; and
- APA citation style.

Successful completion of INF100X meets the Information Literacy requirement of the General Education program.

Readings
TWO REQUIRED TEXTS:

Two Required Books:

Clay A. Johnson: The Information Diet
2011; Basic Books

David Weinberger: Too Big to Know
2012; O'Reilly Media, Inc.

The above texts are available at the University Bookstore, and at Mary Jane Books, as well as on-line publishing sources.

Supplemental readings will be assigned during the course.

Additional Materials
Internet access is required for this course.

Other supportive course materials will be distributed by the instructor or posted on Blackboard.
COURSE POLICIES

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory in every class and students are expected to arrive on time. Class performance is key to your success in this course. Attendance, itself, is not graded. There may be in-class exercises that count as part of your grade.

Work, religious practice, sports team travel, military duty, club activities, fraternity/sorority obligations, family responsibilities, assignments for other courses, and even brief illnesses, etc—these are your responsibility to manage.

If you become seriously ill during the semester, or become derailed by unforeseeable life problems, and have to miss so many assignments that it will endanger your grade, schedule a meeting with me or the GA and discuss. Don’t wait until it’s too late to see me when you get in trouble.

Assignments

Homework assignments and interactive assignments will be assigned from the readings and will be on Blackboard. Each student should complete each assignment independently and hand-in the work on time.

Points will be deducted for late assignments.

Mid-term Exam

We will have an in-class open book mid-term exam on the topics covered during the first part of the semester.

Final Exam

There is no final exam for this course. Your final paper that will count as a final exam.

Late homework

Homework is due on the due date at the specified time, and will only be accepted if submitted through Blackboard.

Cell phones & laptops

We will be using computers in class for class activities. Texting, using social networking sites, entertainment sites, etc. are not appropriate uses of class time.

Incompletes

As per the Undergraduate Bulletin, the grade of Incomplete (I) will be given “only when the student has nearly completed the course requirements but because of circumstances
beyond the student's control the work is not completed." A student granted an incomplete will make an agreement specifying what material must be made up, and a date for its completion.

The incomplete will be converted to a normal grade on the agreed upon completion date based upon whatever material is submitted by that time. *Important:* Incompletes will *not* be given to students who have not fulfilled their class work obligations, and who, at the end of the semester, are looking to avoid failing the course.

**Academic Integrity**

*It is every student’s responsibility to become familiar with the standards of academic integrity at the University. Claims of ignorance, of unintentional error, or of academic or personal pressures are not sufficient reasons for violations of academic integrity. See http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html*

In this class, some course work and examinations are individual exercises. The individual work that you do must be yours - not that of other students, friends, tutors, etc. While it may seem like the easy way out of doing the assignments to copy them from others, this strategy will backfire on the tests, when you will not know the material you would have learned from doing the assignments. You may of course form study groups, discuss assignments and techniques in general terms, etc., but the assignments themselves must be your own work. In particular, two or more people may not create an assignment together and submit it for credit. Please ask if you have any questions about academic integrity.

Students will not be excused from any due date of assignments, projects or exam for any reason. Late assignments will receive a half letter grade reduction for each day late. While a late final project or final exam will be penalized a full letter grade for each day late.

Plagiarism and cheating will result in a failing grade for the course, and will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs according to the policies set forth in the current University at Albany Undergraduate Bulletin or University at Albany Graduate Bulletin, whichever is appropriate to the student.

**AVAILABLE SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Reasonable accommodation**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Director of Disabled Student Services (Campus Center 137, 442-5490). That office will provide the course instructor with verification of your disability, and will recommend appropriate accommodations. In general, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor at least one week before the relevant assignment to make arrangements.
CCI Student Center

The College of Computing and Information Student Center (LI-84) offers tutoring, career development, social events and academic advising. Please stop by or email at ccistudentcenter@gmail.com. Visit the CCI Facebook page for more details and upcoming events: http://www.facebook.com/CollegeofComputingandInformation

University at Albany Writing Center

Writing Center offers students a process-based approach to writing at any stage of the writing process. The Writing Center is located in room 140 of the Humanities Building, which lies on the southwest corner of the Academic Podium on the University at Albany's Uptown Campus (click here for a map of the Uptown Campus).

Our tutors are well-versed in the unique challenges that ESL (English as a Second Language) writers face. Writers can work with a tutor to clarify their understandings of course assignments and faculty feedback, work with tutors to develop and organize their writing, and work one-on-one with a tutor to improve their written English skills. http://www.albany.edu/writing/index.html

Grading: Homework: 40%; Mid-term exam: 30%; Final Project: 30%

Grading Scale

A = 95-100
A- = 90-94
B+ = 85-89
B = 80-84
B- = 75-79
C+ = 70-74
C = 65-69
C- = 60-64
D = 50-59
E = 0-49
COURSE SCHEDULE/TIMELINE: Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

NOTE: All reading assignments must be completed prior to the week’s planned lectures.

Week 1: Classes begin January 23rd, Introductions.

Week 2: Is there such a thing as information overload?
Required reading: Too Big To Know, Chapters 1 through 3.

Week 3: Networking and its' limits.
Required reading: Too Big To Know, Chapters 4 and 5.

Week 4: Thinking in Web Dimensional Space. Basic Web Technologies.
Required reading: Too Big To Know, Chapter 6.
Other Materials from the Instructor on Blackboard or handouts.

Week 5: Web's effect on decision-making and scientific inquiry.
Required reading: Too Big To Know, Chapters 7 and 8.

Week 6: How to manage information. Search skills.
Required reading: Information Diet, Chapters 1 to 6.

Week 7: What will your Information Diet consist of?
Required reading: Information Diet, Chapters 7 to 10

Week 8: Midterm review: March 11th; MIDTERM March 13!
Review all required readings, handouts, etc.

Week 9: No class, Spring Break, March 15 - March 22.

Week 10: Developing a framework for your final paper. Finding and using appropriate resources, citing resources appropriately.
Required reading: Instructor Handouts and Links

Week 11: How do you determine the best sources of information based on a given subject? Developing a process for the evaluation of search results.
Required reading: Instructor Handouts and Links

Week 12: Where is the information society headed?
Required reading: Information Diet, Chapter 11; Too Big To Know, Chapter 9.

Week 13: How to critique your own, and other people's work.
Required reading: Instructor Handouts and Links

Week 14: Final paper sessions, Peer Reviews, Quality Check.
Required reading: Instructor Handouts and Links

Week 15 and Week 16: Presentations of Final Projects. May 8 FINAL PAPER IS DUE!!!