INF 100x -- Internet an Information Access
Spring 2013
TUE & THU 8:45 AM-10:05 PM
Room: HU 137
MAIN CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Course Instructor: Nick DePaula
Office Room: LI-85 (Between Library and Business Administration, lower level)
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 10:30 to 12:30
Email: ndepaula@albany.edu
TA: Eric Alkurabi – ericalkurabi@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course has two basic purposes. The first is to introduce students to good research practice. Lecture topics and activities in this regard will involve learning how to approach information access, the evaluation of resources for research, and basics of academic citation. We will pay particular attention to how the University Libraries operate and how to navigate their resources. Information on other IT resources of the university will be presented. The second basic purpose is to introduce students to issues that pertain to the internet as a medium of communication, and information as a basic and vital component of contemporary life. Technical and technological aspects of information will be covered, as well as its social and political implications. Class time will include lectures, speakers and team-based discussions. Students will be required to work in teams and discuss class material with peers and instructor.

OBJECTIVES

After taking this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the functionality of different IT resources provided by the university.
- Understand the Internet, the World Wide Web, and its basic components
- Navigate the academic resources provided by the University Libraries, including print materials and online research databases.
- Use search engines and evaluate resources for academic writing.
- Understand formal citation styles, such as APA.
- Identify basic concepts regarding the nature of information, its organization and management.
- Understand political and social issues that relate to technological development and the internet.
Successful completion of INF100X meets the Information Literacy requirement of the General Education program.

READING MATERIAL

Readings will be available on Blackboard. Readings listed on a particular day must be done before that day. Readings may be printed out or read on computer screen. It is important to do the readings to participate in class discussion. Other media (e.g. videos) will also be assigned.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance and Participation (20%)

Attendance will be taken regularly. Attendance and participation is important because class time will involve demonstration of search techniques, speakers, team-based discussions, and others – which will generally not be available on Blackboard. Each student has 2 “free” absences. After 2 absences this portion of your total grade will start being deducted. Email the instructor as far in advance as possible if you cannot make it to class. Excuses will be accepted only with proof/documentation.

Quizzes (25%)

There will be approximately 4 quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will be announced on the Blackboard calendar. They will cover material from the previous few lectures and/or demonstrations. There will be no make-up quizzes, but your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Homework Assignments (25%)

Assignments will be presented on Blackboard. They will refer to activities that make sure you are learning the material. Some assignments will refer specifically to parts of the final project you need to submit (e.g. a review of an academic database). Since many of the homework assignments will be components of the final research project, you will find it very easy to complete the final project by simply completing these assignments. Each day late homework loses 10%.

Final Project: Annotated Bibliography (30%)

Students must prepare a research project on an information-related topic of their choice (e.g., social networking and privacy issues; digital divide and rural areas; texting and driving, etc.). The final project must include:

1. The title of the topic you are interested.
2. A brief (150-200 word) introduction to the topic.
3. A list of four (4) keywords or phrases related to your topic.
4. A review of one academic database, following assigned criteria.
5. Citations with annotations of eight (8) sources of information. One citation/annotation must be from each of the following categories:
Each source must be properly cited using APA Style and include a short annotation. Each annotation will be at least 150 and no more than 200 words. We will discuss various aspects of this research project extensively in class, and most of the homework assignments will assist in researching or preparing this research project.

*All assignments are to be submitted via Blackboard by the due date.* E-mail submissions will NOT be accepted.

Your final letter grade for the course will reflect the following percentage points accumulated from the sum of all assignment categories (weighted by the percentage of each category):

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<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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**LATE/MISSED WORK, ABSENCE, AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Please consult the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Bulletin [http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bULLETin/academic/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/academic/regulations.html) for the criteria to be considered to receive make-ups for missed exams or extensions for late work and to understand what counts as an excusable absence. The Undergraduate Bulletin also provides information regarding cheating, plagiarism, or disruption of class. Please read this information and understand that your failure to comply with the University’s published code of student conduct shall result in disciplinary penalties that range from failing a class assignment to dismissal from the University.

**DISCLAIMER**

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus with timely notice to students. Any changes to the class schedule or assignments will be announced in class and/or posted on Blackboard in sufficient time to avoid misunderstandings.