

# Information in the 21st Century

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Nim Dvir

INF100 syllabus

Last updated: June 11, 2019

## 1 General information

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**Meeting time:** May 28 - July 5, 2019 (6 weeks)

**Location:** Fully online (BlackBoard)

**Credits:** 3

**Instructor:** Nim Dvir (read more about me on my university web page -- [albany.edu/~nd115232/](http://albany.edu/~nd115232/))

**Contact:** Through Blackboard or email - [ndvir@albany.edu](mailto:ndvir@albany.edu)

Important -- When emailing, please add [Inf100] at the beginning of the subject to ensure a prompt reply.

## 2 Description and objectives

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This course introduces topics and issues related to information and technology in the 21st century. 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. Different resources, including the internet, libraries, news sources and other sources of information, hardware, and Web 2.0 technologies will be explored.

## 3 Course materials and reading

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- The course is based on free/open source materials, which means that students are not required to purchase anything.
- Each week you will have a few assigned readings, accessed through the weekly folders in the “course content” section.

- You are required to go over everything -- make you understand the basic concepts and follow the lesson objectives!

## 4 Course structure

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The course is divided into 4 weekly modules (originally 10! this means we will have more work each week). Each module is focused on a common thematic element:

Module	Start date	Topic	Readings
1	Tues, May 28	What is information?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The syllabus <sup>[1]</sup></li> <li>• Defining DIKW <sup>[2,3]</sup></li> <li>• The knowledge pyramid <sup>[4]</sup></li> </ul>
2	Tues, June 4	The information age and the evolution of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web 2.0 <sup>[5]</sup></li> <li>• The information revolution <sup>[6]</sup></li> <li>• How the web lost its way <sup>[7,8]</sup></li> <li>• Blogs, Wikipedia, Second Life, and beyond <sup>[9]</sup></li> </ul>
3	Tues, June 11	Discovering information (accessing and Citing reliable information sources)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to literature review <sup>[10]</sup></li> </ul>
4	Tues, June 18	The study of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User engagement <sup>[11-13]</sup></li> </ul>
5	Tues, June 25 (until July 2)	Current issues in information studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content strategy <sup>[14,15]</sup></li> </ul>

## 5 Assessment and Grading

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Each module includes 2 types of deliverables: a Reading Assessment Test (RAT) and a module assignment. The final grade in the course will be calculated based on the percentage listed below:

## 1. Weekly assignments – 10 points each (50%)

Every module includes an assignment in which students apply the topics learned. **Originality and individual work are key.** Instructions for the weekly assignment are under course content.

## 2. Reading Assessment Test (RAT)– 10 points each (50%)

Each module includes a reading assessment test (RAT). The RATs Are based on the material in the assigned lessons and include short questions on key topics. In order to succeed, you must go over all the readings and take notes. RATs are not limited in time (students are encouraged to look up the answers while answering the questions). However, each RAT can only be submitted once since the correct answers will be revealed. RATs are different among students to prevent collaboration and maintain individual work.

### Submission guidelines

RATs and assignments must be submitted through BlackBoard by the end of the module (11:59 PM of the last day listed in the module description). Email Submissions will not be accepted. Late submissions will not be accepted once the solutions are published – make sure to keep track of the due dates!

### 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](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html)

Any indication of plagiarism or other unethical conduct in the course will be referred to the appropriate academic offices and may result in a failing grade for the course. You are responsible for your own work. No one can develop, submit, or correct your submissions in your name. The instructor reserves the right to administer an oral or written exam as a substitute for online submissions if any concerns about copying or sharing of answers arise. **The bottom line: Don’t cheat, don’t share, work alone.**

If you have concerns or questions about this policy, contact the instructor.

### Reasonable accommodation

Reasonable accommodation will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disorders. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Director of Disability Resource Center (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.

### A-E grades:

94 – 100% A

77 – 79% C+

60 – 62% D-

90 – 93% A-	73 – 76% C	0 – 59% E
87 – 89% B+	70 – 72% C-	
83 – 86% B	67 – 69% D+	
80 – 82% B-	63 – 66% D	

## 6 Time management (important)

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Since this is a 3-credit course, offered in a shortened time period (4 weeks instead of 8), students should be prepared to work more hours each week compared to a full-length semester. For each credit, students should plan on spending 2 hours a week reviewing the materials and 4 hours a week on practice and preparing the deliverables. **In total, it is recommended to spend about 2-3 hours a day doing course-related work.** It is easy to lose track of time when studying online, so make sure you manage your time well!

## Bibliography

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- [2] Zins, C. (2007). Conceptual approaches for defining data, information, and knowledge. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 58(4), 479–493. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.20508>
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<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/mar/11/tim-berners-lee-web-inventor-save-internet>

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