Information Communities
Spring 2021 Syllabus

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Lecture Times:
M/W 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
T/R 11:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Course Description

Ultimately users are at the heart of all libraries and information services, so this course focuses outward on the very people librarians and information professionals serve: those who are creating, using and sharing information. Framing the course as outward-facing embraces a forward-thinking and beneficial perspective for graduates and information professionals to conceptualize both their own roles and the potential of the LIS profession. This course will help prepare students to proactively and intentionally engage with the users they serve through examining information communities in a broader context of information behavior and the social, cultural, economic, technological, and political forces that shape their information access and use. From *The Encyclopedia of Community*, Joan Durrance and Karen Fisher's definitive entry provides a theoretical framework: information communities promote a common interest around creation and exchange of distributed information; may be built around different focal points and topics; can emerge and function without geographical boundaries; and often exploit the Internet and technology. Each module explores these ideas of information communities and how libraries and information organizations can support diverse communities and see the individuals they serve not just as information consumers, but as seekers, creators and collaborators.

INFO 200 Information Communities is designed to leverage your work throughout the semester in order to ensure a successful, culminating research paper at term's end. Students will be asked to identify an information community that librarians and information centers serve and as the semester progresses, the blog posts and the larger written assignments will focus on your community's information behaviors and needs and guide your research and writing.

Note: iSchool requires that students earn a B in this course. If the grade is less than B (B- or lower) after the first attempt you will be placed on administrative probation. You must repeat the class the following semester. If -on the second attempt- you do not pass the class with a grade of B or better (not B- but B) you will be disqualified.

Course Requirements

Complete INFO 203 Online Learning: Tools and Strategies for Success.
This is a mandatory 1 unit course that introduces students to the various e-learning tools used in the iSchool program, including Collaborate.

Writing Requirement
If the instructor finds that a student's writing is unacceptable, the instructor will require the student to sign up for online writing tutoring. The student will ask the tutor to confirm with the instructor that he or she is attending sessions.

Blog Reflections
Students will research and explore various topics related to their community group and report their findings on their blog. Students will also be expected to read and comment on the blogs of other students.

Reflection Blog Topics
- Community Description
- Overview of Information Seeking Behaviors of Community
- Research Article Summary
- Information community & Instructional Programming
- Global Issues & Information Community
- Emerging Technology Use of Information Community

Commenting, Engagement and Participation in Course Blogging Community
Students will demonstrate active participation and engagement through their blogs (including introductory and final reflective posts), commenting on classmates' blogs, project work, and use of the course site. A minimum of six well-articulated comments is required.

Information Sources Survey
Using LIS guides, databases, and other relevant professional resources, students will locate and describe two information sources created for and used by the community they are studying. The survey will include a critical description of each source and an assessment of its value to the community. The review should be a minimum of 1,200 words in length (no more than 1,500 maximum) and in APA format.

Grading

- 6 Reflective Blog Posts 30%
- Information Sources Survey 10%
- Context Book Review/Reflective Essay 20%
- Research Paper 40%

In order to provide consistent guidelines for assessment for graduate level work in the School, these terms are applied to letter grades:

- C represents Adequate work; a grade of "C" counts for credit for the course;
- B represents Good work; a grade of "B" clearly meets the standards for graduate level work;
  For core courses in the MLIS program *(not MARA or Informatics)*— **INFO 200, INFO 202, INFO 204 — the iSchool requires that students earn a B in the course. If the grade is less than B (B- or lower) after the first attempt you will be placed on administrative probation. You must repeat the class if you wish to stay in the program. If - on the second attempt - you do not pass the class with a grade of B or better (not B- but B) you will be disqualified.**
- A represents Exceptional work; a grade of "A" will be assigned for outstanding work only.

Students are advised that it is their responsibility to maintain a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA).

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at: **https://www.sjsu.edu/visit/index.php** Make sure to visit this page, review and be familiar with these university policies and resources.

In order to request an accommodation in a class please contact the Accessible Education Center and register via the MyAEC portal.

University Services

The health and wellbeing of our students is always our priority. Please feel free to learn more about our campus services at https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/ or https://www.sjsu.edu/campus-life/health-and-wellness.php