

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee  
School of Information Studies

**Introduction to Information Science**  
**L&I SCI 110 – 401**  
**Spring 2011**

Monday / Wednesday, 11:00a – 11:50a  
G90 Sabin Hall  
(plus additional required discussion session)

**Instructor:**

Prof. Michael Zimmer  
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Phone: 414-229-3627  
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Office hours: Tuesdays, 2:00p – 4:00p, or by appointment

**Teaching Assistants:**

Ed Benoit <[eabenoit@uwm.edu](mailto:eabenoit@uwm.edu)>  
Wyatt Ditzler <[wditzler@uwm.edu](mailto:wditzler@uwm.edu)>  
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**General Description:**

This course introduces basic issues in information science and information studies, including the nature of information, information systems, information professions, information policy, information ethics, and the complex relationships between information technologies and society.

**Objectives:**

1. Combine theory and everyday examples to provide a broad-based introduction to the field of information science and information studies.
2. Connect current information-based institutions and technologies to their historical roots and with their cultural, political, and economic settings.
3. Investigate the impact of the development of technology on access to and use of information and the changes that this development causes in the structure and operation of society.

**Competencies:**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1. Understand and be able to relate concepts of information science and information studies
2. Describe various institutions and technologies for the organization, storage, and retrieval of information, and relate their cultural, social, and political impact
3. Posses general knowledge in current issues of information technology, information organization, the information professions, information policy, and information ethics

**Method of Instruction & Learning:**

Classroom lecture with separate, required, discussion sections.

**Prerequisites:**

No specific course prerequisites.

**Materials & Resources:**

- Textbook: Debons, Anthony (2008). *Library Science 101*. Scarecrow Press. ISBN: 978-0-8108-5289-1
- D2L: Additional course materials will be distributed in class and/or posted on D2L. **You are expected to check the D2L website regularly** for new postings, including lecture outlines, images & links from lectures, readings for discussion section, homework assignments, online quizzes, and so on.
- Wikipedia: Students might find it helpful to review relevant articles on Wikipedia, and are *encouraged to constructively edit and improve* those encyclopedia entries.

**Course Schedule:** (Subject to change)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Response</i>
1/24 1/26	1.1 Introduction to the Course 1.2 The Information Society	YouTube videos	
1/31 2/2	2.1 Introduction to Information: Characteristics 2.2 Introduction to Information: Flows	Ch. 1 (3-12) Ch. 1 (17-25)	
2/7 2/9	3.1 Information Science: Origins 3.2 Information Science: Libraries & Computers	Ch. 3 (46-52) Ch. 3 (53-60)	X
2/14 2/16	4.1 Information Systems: ADIK overview 4.2 Information Science: Professions & the BSIST	Ch. 4 (69-80) Ch. 2 (27-45)	X
2/21 2/23	5.1 Information Systems: Data Acquisition 5.2 Information Systems: Information Organization	Ch. 5 (81-88) Ch. 5 (88-98)	X
2/28 3/2	6.1 Information Systems: Information Transmission 6.2 Information Systems: Networks & Internet	Ch. 6 (99-104) Ch. 6 (104-116)	X
3/7 3/9	7.1 Information Systems: Computing 7.2 Information Systems: Emerging Tech & Web 2.0	Ch. 7 (117-130) D2L; YouTube videos	X
3/14 3/16	8.1 Catch-up & Review 8.2 Midterm Exam	(in class exam)	
3/21 3/23	9.1 SPRING BREAK 9.2 SPRING BREAK		
3/28 3/30	10.1 Knowledge Systems: Decision & Expert Systems 10.2 Knowledge Systems: Information Communication	Ch. 8 (133-143) Ch. 9 (144-151)	X
4/4 4/6	11.1 Knowledge Systems: Visualization & Virtuality 11.2 Knowledge Systems: Human Factors & Design	Ch. 9 (152-155); D2L Ch. 10 (156-167)	X
4/11 4/13	12.1 Social Impact: Information Ethics 12.2 Social Impact: Information Privacy	Ch. 12 (191-197); D2L D2L	X
4/18 4/20	13.1 Social Impact: Information Security 13.2 Social Impact: Information Property	D2L D2L	X
4/25 4/27	14.1 Group Project Discussion & Work 14.2 Group Project Work	(group work in class) (group work in class)	Projects
5/2 5/4	15.1 Group Project Presentations 15.2 Group Project Presentations		Projects
5/9 5/11	16.1 Group Project Presentations 16.2 Group Project Presentations		Review
	Final Exam	(take home exam)	

<i>Discussion Section</i>	<i>Day &amp; Time</i>	<i>Room</i>	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Responses Due</i>
601	Thursday 1:00-1:50p	Lubar S191	Wyatt Ditzler	Saturday 1:00p
602	Thursday 5:00-5:50p	Bolton B91	Soohyung Joo	Saturday 5:00p
603	Wednesday 5:00-5:50p	Enderis 115	Wyatt Ditzler	Friday 1:00p
604	Friday 10:00-10:50a	Bolton B91	Ed Benoit	Sunday 10:00a

**Course Elements:** (read these carefully and completely)

1. Lectures:

- a. Lectures will focus on the assigned reading, highlighting particular items and connecting content in the readings to other “real-world” examples. Students are expected to attend each lecture, arriving prepared to participate in informal discussions of the class material, respond to direct questions, and ask questions of their own. *Do the readings in advance!*
- b. Attendance is required. Check in with your discussion session TA at the start of each lecture to have your attendance recorded.
- c. Absences require the instructor’s approval in advance, and may require written documentation of medical or family emergencies. Multiple unexcused absences will be noted and will impact your “Lecture Attendance” grade.

2. Discussion Sessions:

- a. Each student is required to attend and participate in a weekly discussion session. Discussion sessions will review the week’s lectures, and help you organize your thoughts to prepare assigned written responses (see below). Initial discussion questions will be posted for each class session on D2L and distributed in lecture, but your discussions can (and should) go off in different directions.
- b. Teaching assistants will note contributions by each student in each class meeting to guide the assessment of the “Attendance and participation” grade element. If you make well-informed and relevant contributions to at least half the sessions then you should score very well. There is no need to hog the discussion, and a few quiet sessions will not hurt your score.
- c. For discussion sessions dedicated to group work, your participation will be assessed based on the constructive and collaborative use of this time to work on group assignments.

3. Written Responses:

- a. Students must submit written reading/discussion responses associated with 9 discussion sessions over the course of the semester, indicated with an “X” on the course schedule. Your grade will be based on the best 8 responses; your lowest score will be dropped.
- b. Reflective questions will be posted in advance for each lecture session, and worksheets will be distributed to help prepare for discussion sessions. You will choose to answer one question from each of the week’s lecture worksheets. Your written responses will be due via D2L 48 hours after your discussion session.

For example: In week 4, each discussion section will be discussing lectures 4.1 and 4.2, and the written response to one question from each of those two lecture worksheets will be due 48 hours after the discussion section.

- c. Each response should be at least 200 words (400 words total), and must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Use a 12-point kerned font such as Times New Roman. Multi-page documents should have page numbers. Don’t forget your name, the course number, an assignment description, and the date. Assignments turned in via D2L should be in .doc or .rtf format.

- d. Each response is worth 2 points, and will be evaluated on the following scale:

2 points: Response is on time, at required length, generally free from errors, and shows you have engaged with the reading and lecture material in crafting your answer.

1 point: Responses that are late, not at required length, or error ridden, or responses that show a lack of effort to engage with the course material.

0 points: Failure to submit response, or responses that show a clear failure in addressing the question at hand.

Your grade will be based on the best 8 responses; your lowest score will be dropped.

#### 4. Group Project:

- a. Small groups will be formed within each discussion section to work on a group project exploring a contemporary information system in terms of the main themes of the course. The projects are meant to be collaborative, and while some time will be allotted during the discussion sections, groups may need to work together outside of class. Projects will be collectively presented in class, as indicated on the course schedule. More details to be provided later in the semester.

#### 5. Exams:

- a. The course includes both a midterm and a final exam. Each exam will consist of short answer and/or brief essay questions. Review questions will be provided prior to the exams. More details to be provided.

### **Course Policies:**

#### Credit Breakdown:

Lecture Attendance	10%
Discussion Attendance & Participation	15%
Written Responses	15%
Group Project	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

#### Grading Scale:

A	94-100	C	74-77
A-	91-93	C-	71-73
B+	88-90	D+	68-70
B	84-87	D	64-77
B-	81-83	D-	60-63
C+	78-80	F	0-59

#### Atmosphere for Learning:

- Students are encouraged to participate in open and frank discussions of the course material, but are also expected to respect the opinions of other students and to engage in discussion and debates in a sensitive and respectful manner.
- Before class begins, please turn off all cell phones, instant messengers, and any other items that might ring, buzz, play "My Humps," or otherwise call attention to themselves and disrupt class.
- Laptop computers may be used to assist in note taking. But please check email, chat, text, and update your Facebook status on your own time; it is distracting and disrespectful to the instructor and your classmates.
- Fair warning of things I will take note of: Coming to class late, leaving class early, sleeping in class, excessive eating in class, playing on your laptop or texting during class, doing work for other courses in class, etc. These, or similar, activities will negatively affect your attendance/participation grade.

#### Contacting Me:

- I will be available for *short* discussions immediately before and after class.
- By email: I will respond to class-related emails during normal work hours, and will generally reply the same day as received (an e-mail sent after working hours, however, may not be replied to until the next morning). Please be sure to use your UWM e-mail account, identify yourself and the course, and *always* use proper and professional e-mail etiquette and modes of address. For example, don't start your e-mail with "*Hey Mike*" or end with "*Kthxbye!*"
- In person: I will be in my office and available to talk to you during my scheduled office hours (see above). Other times may be available via prior arrangement.
- By telephone: During my campus office hours I will also be accessible my office telephone. The number is 414-229-3627.

## **UWM and SOIS Academic Policies:**

The following links contain university policies affecting all SOIS students. Many of the links below may be accessed through a PDF-document maintained by the Secretary of the University:

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>.

Undergraduates may also find the *Panther Planner and Undergraduate Student Handbook* useful (<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/Handbook2005-06.pdf>). For graduate students, there are additional guidelines from the Graduate School ([http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Grad\\_Sch/StudentInfo/](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Grad_Sch/StudentInfo/)), including those found in the *Graduate Student and Faculty Handbook*: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Grad\\_Sch/Publications/Handbook/](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Grad_Sch/Publications/Handbook/).

- **Students with disabilities.** If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of a course, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students with disabilities are responsible to communicate directly with the instructor to ensure special accommodation in a timely manner. There is comprehensive coverage of issues related to disabilities at the Student Accessibility Center (<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/MainOffice.html>), important components of which are expressed here: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf>.
- **Religious observances.** Students' sincerely held religious beliefs must be reasonably accommodated with respect to all examinations and other academic requirements, according to the following policy: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin\\_policies/S1.5.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm). Please notify your instructor within the first three weeks of the Fall or Spring Term (first week of shorter-term or Summer courses) of any specific days or dates on which you request relief from an examination or academic requirement for religious observances.
- **Students called to active military duty.** UWM has several policies that accommodate students who must temporarily lay aside their educational pursuits when called to active duty in the military (see <http://www3.uwm.edu/des/web/registration/militarycallup.cfm>), including provisions for refunds, readmission, grading, and other situations.
- **Incompletes.** A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantial cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or some limited amount of other term work. An incomplete is not given unless the student proves to the instructor that s/he was prevented from completing course requirements for just cause as indicated above ([http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin\\_policies/S31.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf)).
- **Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment).** UWM and SOIS are committed to building and maintaining a campus environment that recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of every person, fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect, and encourages the members of its community to strive to reach their full potential. The UWM policy statement ([http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin\\_policies/S47.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf)) summarizes and defines situations that constitute discriminatory conduct. If you have questions, please contact an appropriate SOIS administrator.
- **Academic misconduct.** Cheating on exams and plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, ranging from a failing grade for a course or assignment to expulsion from the University. See the following document (<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html>) or contact the SOIS Investigating Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for more information.
- **Complaints.** Students may direct complaints to the SOIS Dean or Associate Dean. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.
- **Grade appeal procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow SOIS appeals procedures or, in the case of a graduate student, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School ([http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin\\_policies/S28.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm)).
- **Examinations, Finals.** The Secretary of the University is authorized to prepare the final examination schedule. The time of the final examination for an individual or a class may be changed only with the prior approval of the dean or director of the respective college/school. The change will involve a postponement to a later date. For individuals with exam conflicts, a separate week at the very end of the exam week will be reserved to take one of the conflicting exams ([http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad+admin\\_policies/S22.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad+admin_policies/S22.htm)).
- **D2L and Student Privacy:** Certain SOIS courses utilize the instructional technology Desire to Learn (D2L) to facilitate online learning. D2L provides instructors the ability to view both individual data points and aggregate course statistics, including the dates and times individual students access the system, what pages a student has viewed, the duration of visits, and the IP address of the computer used to access the course website. This information is kept confidential in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), but may be used for student evaluation.