

ICT/IS 200 Information Literacy & Critical Thinking

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the concepts and practices of information literacy. It explores how to effectively and ethically find, evaluate, analyze, and use information resources in academic and everyday-life situations. Emphasizing critical inquiry and critical thinking, this course will explore the theories and definitions surrounding the term “information literacy.” Students will put this theory into practice by developing problem-solving skills that allow them to meet information needs throughout their lifetimes. Students will gain a better understanding of how information and knowledge function in society and will discover methods of finding, accessing, evaluating, and using different information sources in an effective and ethical manner. (Same as IS 200.)

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe and apply information and digital literacy in various nontraditional contexts.
2. Comprehend how knowledge is produced in society and gain experience in nontraditional knowledge production.
3. Develop critical thinking skills enabling them to apply, analyze and evaluate sources then synthesizing the information encountered to create new sources.
4. Utilize information processes to solve problems and understand current issues in society.
5. Understand the ethical responsibilities of using information in many different contexts including print and online.

Required Materials

All readings available online or through Canvas.

Course Assignments

- Online activities (60 points)
- Pre-test/Post-test (10 points)
- Participation in a research subject pool (15 points)
- 2 videos: a personal introduction (10 points) and a final video project (100 points)
- 2 graded papers (50 points and 60 points)
- 1 midsemester feedback (5 points)

- 1 podcast (60 points)
- Draft and peer review of final project script (30 points)

Summary Description of Course Assignments

Coursework in ICT/IS 200 will require students to analyze, exercise, and expand on their critical and creative thinking skills. Assignment descriptions are listed below in the Assignment Description and Point Values section of the syllabus.

Submission of Assignments

All assignments will be submitted on Canvas in a .doc file, .docx file, video file, or unlisted YouTube link. All assignments must include student's name, instructor, the course, and the date.

When submitting assignments on Canvas, students must follow naming conventions on assignment instructions. Students are responsible for keeping back-up copies of all work since electronic texts can be lost. All assignments must be written in Standard English with correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Assignments are to be completed solely by the individual.

Late Work

Officially, assessments are due at 11:59pm on the dates listed below. Practically speaking, however, I will grade without penalty any assessment that is turned in by the time I begin looking over that assessment. However, I will not grade or provide feedback on any work that is completed after this time unless you have made other arrangements with me. Naturally, because my schedule varies from week to week and because I try to provide feedback as quickly as possible, your best bet is to turn in your work by the official deadline or—if life has thrown you a curveball—to get in touch with me ahead of time to make other arrangements.

Research Subject Pool

The School of Information Science is committed to providing students a broad and comprehensive education. Students in this class are provided the option to participate in one or more research studies in order to earn 3 credit points, which is equal to 15 points towards the total points in the class (i.e., 3 percent of your grade). Each study listed within the RSP will have an allotted time requirement and credit(s) to earn when study is complete. If you are enrolled in multiple courses that participate in the RSP, you must contact the RSP coordinator to make after you have completed the required 3 credit points and the RSP coordinator will ensure that points are applied across all required RSP classes. Detailed information about available research studies can be found on the Research Participant Management System website found at (<https://uksis.sona-systems.com>). If you have questions about the research or about credit, please contact the researcher for the specific study about which you are inquiring. Participation is voluntary and there are alternative options for credit. Please see the complete description of the procedures for alternative research credit.

You may log-in to the system using your linkblue ID credentials. The system will close on the last day of classes for that semester. You will not have any other opportunity to complete your credits once the system closes.

Alternatives to Research Studies

Participation is voluntary and there are alternative options for credit. Research alternatives will be listed along with actual studies on the SIS RSP website. These alternative assignments usually consist of reading an article or webpage and summarizing the contents. Research alternatives are to be completed through the SIS RSP website.

Earning Credits

After completing each study, you will see a completion page on the SIS RSP website. Take a screen shot of this completion page and save it for your records. Your credit should be granted automatically by the system. At the end of the semester, your instructor will be able to view the number of credits you have earned. If you have questions about credits earned, contact sirsphelp@gmail.com.

Need Help?

If you have general questions about how to use the SIS RSP website or are having issues logging on, please contact sirsphelp@gmail.com. If you have questions about a particular study or if you have questions about the research, please contact the researcher for the specific study about which you are inquiring. This information will be listed in the study description on the SIS RSP website.

Technology Information and Requirements

Technology Requirements

Minimum technical requirements for UK courses and suggested hardware, software, and internet connections are available at [ITS Student Hardware & Software Guidelines](#).

Share any additional technology requirements, such as required software, and your preferred procedure for resolving technical complaints for each service or software used in the course.

Technical Support

For account help, contact UK's [Information Technology Customer Services online](#), by [email](#), or by phone at 859-218-HELP (4357).

Resources

[Distance Learning Library Services](#)

[Carla Cantagallo](#), Distance Learning Librarian, 859-218-1240

Add any additional resources you feel will be helpful for your course: Writing Center, ProctorU/NCTA information, etc.

Midterm Grades for Undergraduate Students (Senate Rules 6.1.3.A)

Mid-term grades will be posted in myUK by the deadline established in the [Academic Calendar](#).

Excused Absences (Senate Rules 5.2.4.2)

Senate Rules 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) significant illness, (b) death of a family member, (c) trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an educational unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, (d) major religious holidays, (e) interviews for graduate/professional school or full-time employment post-graduation, and (f) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the instructor of record. Students should notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible.

If a course syllabus requires specific interactions (e.g., with the instructor or other students), in situations where a student’s total EXCUSED absences exceed 1/5 (or 20%) of the required interactions for the course, the student shall have the right to request and receive a “W,” or the Instructor of Record may award an “I” for the course if the student declines a “W.” (Senate Rules 5.2.4.2.1)

(If an attendance/interaction policy is not stated in the course syllabus or the policy does not include a penalty to the student, the Instructor cannot penalize the student for any unexcused absences.)

Verification of Absences (Senate Rules 5.2.4.2.A, B, C, and E)

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2* states that faculty have the right to request appropriate verification when students claim an excused absence due to: significant illness; death in the household, trips for classes, trips sponsored by an educational unit and trips for participation related to intercollegiate athletic events; and interviews for full-time job opportunities after graduation and interviews for graduate and professional school. (Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.)

Religious Observances (Senate Rules 5.2.4.2.D)

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays. Please check the course syllabus for the notification requirement. If no requirement is specified, two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable and should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through [the Ombud’s website](#) or calling 859-257-3737.

Make-Up Work (Senate Rule 5.2.4.2)

Students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The instructor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to the excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred. The instructor shall provide the student with an opportunity to make up the graded work and may not simply calculate the student's grade on the basis of the other course requirements, unless the student agrees in writing.

Accommodations Due to Disability

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. Visit the [DRC website](#), [email the DRC](#), contact them by phone at (859) 257-2754, or visit their office on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407.

Non-Discrimination Statement and Title IX Information

UK is committed to providing a safe learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community. The University maintains a comprehensive program which protects all members from discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. For complete information about UK's prohibition on discrimination and harassment on aspects such as race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, and sexual orientation, please see [the electronic version of UK's Administrative Regulation 6:1 \("Policy on Discrimination and Harassment"\)](#). In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in academics, employment, and all of its programs and activities. Sexual misconduct is a form of sexual harassment in which one act is severe enough to create a hostile environment based on sex and is prohibited between members of the University community and shall not be tolerated. For more details, please see [the electronic version of Administrative Regulations 6:2 \("Policy and Procedures for Addressing and Resolving Allegations of Sexual Assault, Stalking, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Exploitation"\)](#). Complaints regarding violations of University policies on discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct are handled by the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity (IEEO), which is located in 13 Main Building and can be reached by phone at (859) 257-8927. You can also visit [the IEEO's website](#).

Faculty members are obligated to forward any report made by a student related to IEEO matters to the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity. Students can *confidentially* report alleged incidences through the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, Counseling Center, or University Health Services.

Academic Integrity– Prohibition on Plagiarism (Senate Rules 6.3.1)

Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). Complete information can be found on the [Academic Ombud](#) page. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Senate Rule 6.3.1 (see current [Senate Rules](#)) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas, which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Please note: According to university policy, any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism. While I do check for plagiarism, I will never use an electronic database, and I encourage you to familiarize yourselves with [criticisms of this kind of software](#).

Academic Integrity – Prohibition on Cheating (Senate Rules 6.3.2)

Cheating is defined by its general usage. It includes, but is not limited to, the wrongfully giving, taking, or presenting any information or material by a student with the intent of aiding himself/herself or another on any academic work which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade. The fact that a student could not have benefited from an action is not by itself proof that the action does not constitute cheating. Any question of definition shall be referred to the University Appeals Board.

Academic Integrity – Prohibition on Falsification/Misuse of Academic Records (SR 6.3.3)

Maintaining the integrity, accuracy, and appropriate privacy of student academic records is an essential administrative function of the University and a basic protection of all students. Accordingly, the actual or attempted falsification, theft, misrepresentation or other alteration or misuse of any official academic record of the University, specifically including knowingly having unauthorized access to such records or the unauthorized disclosure of information contained in such records, is a serious academic offense. As used in this context, "academic record" includes all paper and electronic versions of the partial or complete permanent academic record, all official and unofficial academic transcripts, application documents and admission credentials, and all academic record transaction documents. The minimum sanction for falsification, including the omission of information, or attempted falsification or other misuse of academic records as described in this section is suspension for one semester.

Course Material Copyright Statement

Materials distributed or made available to students in connection with this course may be copyright protected. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for the instructional activities associated with and for the duration of this course. They may not be converted to or retained in another medium or disseminated further.

Bias Incident Support Services

Bias Incident Support Services (BISS) provides confidential support and advocacy for any student, staff, or faculty member impacted by bias, hatred, and/or an act of identity-based violence. BISS staff aid impacted parties in accessing campus and community resources, including the Bias Incident Response Team, the University's official reporting system for acts that negatively impact a sense of belonging. Campus and community consultation and educational opportunities centered on inclusion, diversity, equity and belonging is a resource also provided by BISS. For more detailed information please visit the [BISS website](#) or contact them [via email](#).

Counseling Center

The UK Counseling Center (UKCC) provides a range of confidential psychological services to students enrolled in 6 credit hours or more, psychoeducational outreach programming (including QPR suicide prevention), and consultation to members of the UK community (students, faculty, staff, administrators, parents, concerned others). Please visit the

website <https://www.uky.edu/counselingcenter/> for more detailed information, or call 859.257.8701.

Martin Luther King Center

The Martin Luther King Center (MLKC) supports an inclusive learning environment where diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, and appreciated as a source of strength. The MLKC's year-round programs and activities that focus on the importance of cultural awareness and cross-cultural understanding support its three primary goals: 1) sponsoring cultural and educational programming; 2) offering opportunities for student support and development; and 3) through programmatic linkages with a wide variety of civic and community agencies, promoting community outreach, engagement, and collaboration. Students can reach the MLKC via phone at (859) 257-4130, by visiting them in Gatton Student Center Suite A230, [via email](#), and by visiting [the MLKC website](#).

Office of LGBTQ* Resources

UK is committed to supporting students and upholding the University's efforts to promote inclusion among our community. UK faculty and staff employees support inclusion and diversity throughout the University, including the ways in which faculty structure classroom conversations and manage those dynamics. To assist in these efforts, students are welcome to provide the names and pronouns they prefer. One easy way to do this is by using the pronoun feature of UK's Name Change Form. (More information about the form can be found on the [Office of LGBTQ*'s website](#).) Otherwise, students can provide this information to faculty members directly.

Discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity is prohibited at UK. If you have questions about support, advocacy, and community-building services related to sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity, students are encouraged to visit the [website of the Office of LGBTQ* Resources](#).

Veteran's Resource Center

Being both a member of the military community and a student can bring some complexities. If you are a member of the military or a military veteran or dependent, please let me know when these challenges arise. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, mandatory training exercises, issues with GI Bill disbursement, etc. can complicate your academic life. Please let me know if you experience complications and I will do my best to work with you.

If you are a military student serving in the National Guard or Reserve it is in your best interest to let all of your professors know that immediately. You might also consider sharing a copy of your training schedule as well as any orders activating you. The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) can provide a letter for your professors validating your absence but be aware that there is no current UK policy protecting military students who miss class due to short term activations such as long weekend drills, annual training or emergency activations. See the instructor or the VRC for details.

The VRC is a great resource for members of our military family. If you have questions regarding your VA benefits or other related issues, the VRC has a full complement of staff to assist you. The VRC also provides study and lounge space, as well as free printing. Please

visit the [VRC website](#), [email the DRC](#), visit them in the basement of Erikson Hall, or call the director, Tony Dotson, at (859) 257-1148.

Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Center

If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination or interpersonal violence, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member or TA/RA/GA, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University these individuals MUST report any acts of violence (including verbal bullying and sexual harassment) to the University's Title IX Coordinator in the IEEO Office. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you can visit the [Violence Intervention and Prevention \(VIP\) Center's website](#) (offices located in Frazee Hall, lower level; [email them](#); or call (859) 257-3574), [the Counseling Center's \(CC\) website](#) (106 Frazee Hall; (859)), and the [University Health Services \(UHS\) website](#); the VIP Center, CC, and UHS are confidential resources on campus. **The VIP Center accepts walk-in appointments.**

Assignment Descriptions and Point Values

Week 2: Personal introduction (10 points)

You will prepare and present a brief 1-2 minute introduction video to share with the class. Your presentation should include name, major, year in school, and at least one fun fact about you. This will help your instructor and your fellow students get to know you.

Week 4: Case studies (50 points)

Using the readings and materials presented in class, consider whether you are largely a critical thinker, a creative thinker, or both. Then, think of three people in your field and describe what kind of thinker you believe them to be as well. Give examples for your opinions, and write an essay describing each person in four case studies that must be at least 250 words per person.

Week 8: Claim check (60 points)

Find an article of at least 400 words that makes a claim that you believe to be false. The topic could range from a popular misconception in your field to a conspiracy theory. Then, analyze the article in an 800-word paper to determine whether the argument it makes is convincing. Check for bias using the CRAAP method as well as other biases discussed in class. Further, explore other places that have published similar stories to speculate on where the claim originated, how it spread, and why the story appears in the particular media outlets it does.

Week 9: Midsemester feedback (5 points)

You will complete a brief, anonymous survey about the course so that your instructors can address any issues and can adjust for the remainder of the semester.

Week 11: Podcast (60 points)

In a brief 4-6 minute podcast, discuss how particular information communication technologies are integrated into your area of study or area of interest. For instance, one example is how geographic information systems are used in agriculture. Issues you may want to discuss are how the technologies may help, what could be done differently, or what you see happening in the future. Make sure you verbally cite at least two sources. You will write a script for these and record the podcast as if it were for a professional outlet.

Week 14: Final project video script draft due (15 points)

You will submit a script of what you will say in your final project video, the two images you selected to analyze, and your completed infographic.

Week 15: Peer review of final project video script (15 points)

You will review a classmate's materials for the final project and will receive feedback about your work as well.

Weeks 16: Final project: Image analysis (100 points)

Compare two infographics that relate to the same topic and analyze the information provided, the visual and structural design, and the audience of each infographic based on the principles discussed in class. Then, create a new infographic that improves on the original infographics. Explain why you made the changes you did, and discuss how you used critical and creative thinking processes to create your infographic. Create a 5- to 8-minute video showing both original infographics as well as your own, and discuss the prompts above. You must appear on the screen at least at the beginning and end of the video. Then, in a 400-word essay, analyze one other student's video, and explain how you would change the information and design of the infographics the students created. Now that you've seen how other people approach the redesign, if you did your infographic over, what would you do differently and why?

Ongoing:

Research credit participation (15 points)

The School of Information Science is committed to providing students a broad and comprehensive education. Students in this class are provided the option to participate in one or more research studies in order to earn 3 credit points, which is equal to 15 points towards the total points in the class (i.e., 3 percent of your grade). Each study listed within the RSP will have an allotted time requirement and credit(s) to earn when study is complete. If you are enrolled in multiple courses that participate in the RSP, you must contact the RSP coordinator to make after you have completed the required 3 credit points and the RSP coordinator will ensure that points are applied across all required RSP classes. Detailed information about available research studies can be found on the Research Participant Management System website found at (<https://uksis.sona-systems.com>). If you have questions about the research or about credit, please contact the researcher for the specific study about which you are inquiring. Participation is voluntary and there are alternative options for credit. Please see the complete description of the procedures for alternative research credit.

You may log-in to the system using your linkblue ID credentials. The system will close on the last day of classes for that semester. You will not have any other opportunity to complete your credits once the system closes. Please see more details on page 2 of the syllabus.

Pre-/Post-Test (10 points)

Each student is required to complete a pre-test at the beginning of the semester and a post-test at the end of the semester for departmental assessment purposes. These will be completed online and you will receive credit for these assignments; your answers will not affect your grade and your instructor will not be aware of your individual responses.

A link and instructions for the pre-test and the post-test will be sent directly to your university-issued email address. Please take note of the due dates as given to you by your instructor.

Attendance/Online activities (60 points)

You will receive point for attendance/in-class participation/You will participate in a variety of online activities throughout the semester.

Points possible: 400

Course Calendar

Module 1: Basics of Information Literacy

Week	Focus	Due Dates and Readings
Week 1	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review syllabus • Pre-test due • Importance of information literacy • Why the modern world is bad for our brains
Week 2	<i>Labor Day holiday</i> Critical Thinking in the 21st Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal introduction due • Critical thinking and WISE reading (Canvas) • Concept of critical thinking • Your smartphone is making you stupid
Week 3	Creative Thinking and Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative approaches to problem solving • Structuring your problem-solving process
Week 4	Finding Quality Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies due • Deep web: A guide and resources (Canvas) • How search engines work • News use across social media platforms 2018

Module 2: Analyzing Information

Week	Focus	Due Dates and Readings
Week 5	Information Cycles/Knowledge Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A history of the future of news • Impact of digital media on knowledge creation
Week 6	Evaluating Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRAAP Test • Deconstructing a research article • Research bias (Canvas)
Week 7	Bias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to fight fake news • Cause and effect of filter bubbles
Week 8	Media representation and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claim check due • The average Wikipedian • Pros and cons of media consolidation that are worth knowing • Digital divide

Module 3: Presenting Ideas

Week	Focus	Due Dates and Readings
Week 9	<i>Fall break</i> Perception and Persuasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midsemester feedback due • How the internet has changed the psychology of persuasion and influence • How social media has revolutionized the way companies communicate
Week 10	Storytelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The psychology of storytelling • The science behind storytelling
Week 11	Information Design 1: Principles and Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Podcast due • The science behind design • Visual design for everyone
Week 12	Information Design 2: Creating for a Digital Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data visualization for human perception • Infographics and data visualization

Module 4: Transforming Information

Week	Focus	Due Dates and Readings
Week 13	Copyright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. copyright basics • Copyright and social media (Canvas)
Week 14	<i>Thanksgiving</i> Information Ethics and Privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final project video script draft due • PAPA-Issues of the information age (Canvas)
Week 15	Work Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review of final project video script due
Week 16	Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-test due • Final presentation due
	Finals Week	No classes or final exam