

University of Kentucky
School of Information Science

IS/ICT 200 sec. 210: Information Literacy and Critical Thinking
3 Credit Hours
Summer 2020

Instructor

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(preferred method of
communication)

Office Hours

- By appointment and via Zoom
- Please contact via email to schedule an appointment

Class Information

- Asynchronous via Canvas

COURSE INFORMATION

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.)

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion 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 Texts

All readings are available online or through Canvas.

Course Assignments

- Online discussions (80 points)
- 1 graded paper (50 points)
- 2 anonymous feedback surveys (10 points)
- 3 videos: a personal introduction (10 points), a newscast (60 points), and final video project (100 points)
- 1 mid-semester feedback (5 points)
- 1 podcast (60 points)
- Draft and peer-review of final project script (30 points)

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.

Technology Requirements

Students may be required to participate in class activities online in addition to other class requirements. Students must have access to Canvas through their UK ID to successfully complete this course. Students may also need access to Google Drive (For instructions on setting up the Google student account, [click here.](#)), and access to [Zoom](#) (which they should already have with their link blue user name and password).

Students are not required to have a webcam and microphone, although they may come in handy. [Click here to view](#) UK's Analytics and Technologies Department's minimum requirements for technology for e-learning.

Commitment to Diversity

The University of Kentucky is committed to making diversity central to university policies, decisions, and practices to strengthen diversity within the Commonwealth. Efforts by a broad-based task force appointed by President Todd defined diversity as: embracing difference or promoting increased knowledge regarding race/ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, veteran affairs, and thought within an inclusive community.

This definition of diversity values an inclusive institutional culture, academic programs, and co-curricular activities that prepare students for active, global citizenship. This commitment further allows for an educational process that fosters growth among all members of the academic community by including a wide array of talents, and recognizing the human differences are organizational strengths (University-Wide Comprehensive Diversity Plan Task Force Report, April 2005, p. 6). Because the desired outcome is excellence in education, UK "does not practice discrimination on the basis of race/ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or disability" (p. 6).

The School of Information Science supports the university-wide definition of diversity and enhances it through an expanded interpretation. This broader conceptualization of diversity includes learning exceptionalities, native languages, socioeconomic status, and life experiences often created by residing in unique geographical regions such as Appalachia. Curricula within the

UK School of Information Science, field experiences, and membership of its faculty and student body reflect a commitment to diversity.

UK Policies

The adopted UK academic policies apply in this course and are articulated in the Students' Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. Important policies and regulations applicable to this course include, but are not limited to, those concerning attendance, cheating and plagiarism, course withdrawal, incomplete grades, and acceptable standards of English. As the instructor, I retain absolute discretion concerning acceptance of required assignments after established due dates and reserve the right to lower grades on assignments submitted late.

Participation. Because this course is asynchronous, meaning that there will be no in-person meetings, you will be responsible for active and regular participation in course activities available in Canvas and completion of assignments. Students are expected to (a) read and consider applications of the information before class, (b) ask questions and/or consider applications in group discussions/activities, and (c) actively listen and engage in activities/discussions during class or through Canvas.

Disabilities. If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations in this course, please make your request to the University Disability Resource Center. The Center will require current disability documentation. When accommodations are approved, the Center will provide me with a Letter of Accommodation that details the recommended accommodations. Contact the Disability Resource Center, Jake Karnes, Director at 859-257-2754 or jkarnes@email.uky.edu

Go to www.research.uky.edu/gs/bulletin/bullinfo.shtml for more information about UK policies.

Academic Integrity

Per university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic 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 forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information found at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others properly credited.

Part II of Student Rights and Responsibilities (available online <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>) all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about the

question plagiarism involving their own 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 else from another source without appropriate acknowledgement of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work, whether it be a published article, chapter of a book, a paper from a friend file, or something similar to this. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to 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 the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she 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 it. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic.

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Quality of Student Work

Unless specified otherwise, all papers submitted to the instructor must be presented in the writing style and format described in the sixth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association¹. All papers must be word-processed in Times New Roman 12-point font. Students are expected to follow rules of usage and principles of composition². When the two resources listed in the footnote below present differing rules, students are to adhere to the academic writing guidelines in the APA Manual. Review an example of an APA formatted paper here:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_sample_paper.html

Grading scale

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

- A=90-100% (Exceptional Achievement)
- B=80-89% (High Achievement)
- C=70-79% (Average Achievement)
- D=69-60% (Below Average Achievement)
- E=<59% (Failing)

Mid-term Grade (for 100-400 level courses, and for undergrads in 500-level courses)

Mid-term grades will be posted in myUK by the deadline established in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.uky.edu/registrar/calendar>).

Student Responsibilities

Students assume major responsibility for their own learning. As members of a learning group, they are likewise responsible for helping their peers by consulting with them and engaging in collaborative problem solving before seeking assistance from the instructor.

Submission of Assignments

All assignments must include student's name, instructor, the course, and the date. All assignments will be submitted on Canvas in a .doc file, .docx file, video file, or unlisted YouTube link. **Please do NOT email assignments.**

When submitting assignments, 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.

Assignment due dates are provided in the course calendar and on assignment links in Canvas. Assignments, activities, and discussions should be submitted before midnight of the respective due date.

- No credit will be awarded for contributions to discussions after the posted due date.

- Other assignments submitted within 48 hours after the posted due date will receive an automatic 20% point reduction. **No assignment submissions will be accepted more than 48 hours after the posted due date.**

Group Synthesis

During the semester, students will be asked to offer peer evaluation discussion of assignments produced by others in their groups. Students should offer helpful commentary and analysis of their colleagues' work in an effort to assist other students in refining their products as well as offering new ways to consider the processes.

Discussion

Students will engage in online discussion posts. The goal is to have students think about and discuss the weekly readings/topics, and students will then engage in discussion.

Students are expected to participate fully in discussions through Canvas. All class discussions should be respectful and intellectually stimulating. Should a problem arise, the instructor will take appropriate actions.

COURSE POLICIES

Excused Absences

Students need to notify the instructor of absences prior to class when possible. Please refer to the definition of an excused absence in the current edition of *Students Rights and Responsibilities* or on the web at <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/>.

S.R. 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit "reasonable cause for nonattendance" by the instructor. You will be asked to provide official written documentation for absences.

Excuses for university-sponsored activities must be made *prior* to such absences. 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 no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Information regarding dates of major religious holidays may be obtained through the religious liaison at 859-257-2754.

Verification of Absences

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 because of illness or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to university-related trips is required prior to the absence.

Class Schedule

Learning does not always happen on schedule, and so changes may be made to meet the needs of the class. The student will be responsible for checking the online syllabus, schedule, and Canvas

notifications for any changes or updates before reading or beginning activities.

E-mail Policy

Please allow 24 hours for the instructor to respond to an e-mail during the school week. On weekends, the instructor will try to answer e-mails, but may not be able to do so until Monday. Before emailing the instructor with questions, students should read assignment information and the syllabus carefully. Students who have not gotten a response within 24 hours should send a follow-up e-mail or speak with the instructor.

Office Hours

The instructor keeps flexible office hours and often times works off campus. The instructor will be available for meetings prior scheduled via e-mail.

Reference Librarians

The reference librarians on the 2nd floor, North Wing of W.T. Young Library can help with research for this class or other classes. Students can visit, call, e-mail, or chat with librarians, unless the assignment requests they do not seek library assistance. See the [UK Libraries Homepage](#) for more information.

Writing Center

The Writing Center is located in the Hub of the W. T. Young Library, B108B (phone: 859-257-1368). Students can walk in or [make an appointment online](#). The staff can help students identify and correct problems with all aspects of writing as well as work with students on visual design.

Academic Ombud

Dr. Michael Healy, the Academic Ombud will assist you with a variety of issues, including grade disputes. He is in 109 Bradley Hall and his number is 859-257-3737. You can e-mail him at ombud@uky.edu.

Disability Resource Center

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations in this course, please make your request to the University Disability Resource Center. The Center will require current disability documentation. When accommodations are approved, the Center will provide me with a Letter of Accommodation that details the recommended accommodations. Contact the Disability Resource Center, Mr. David Beach, Director at 859-257-2754 or dtbeac1@uky.edu.

Military Members and Veterans

UK recognizes the complexities of being a member of the military community and also a student. Members of the military or military veterans or dependents should inform the instructor if they need special accommodations. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, mandatory training exercises, complications with GI Bill disbursement, and other unforeseen military and veteran related developments can complicate academic life. If students are aware of any complications, they should contact the Coordinator of the University of Kentucky Veterans Resource Center at (859) 257-1148 for additional assistance. Visit <http://www.uky.edu/veterans> for more available resources.

Course Schedule

Week	Focus	Assignment Due	Readings
Week 1	Introduction to Critical and Creative Thinking in the 21 st Century	Review Syllabus Personal Introduction Discussion 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of information literacy • Why the modern world is bad for our brains • Critical thinking and WISE reading (Canvas) • Concept of critical thinking • Creative approaches to problem solving • Your smartphone is making you stupid • Structuring your problem-solving process
Week 2	Finding Quality Materials	Case Studies Paper Discussion 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How search engines work • Deep web sources and info • News use across social media platforms 2018
Week 3	Information Cycles/ Knowledge Production	Discussion 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A history of the future of news • Online communities and knowledge collaborations (Canvas)
Week 4	Information Evaluation & Bias	Newscast Discussion 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRAAP Test • Research bias • Deconstructing a research article • The average Wikipedian • Pros and cons of media consolidation that are worth knowing • Digital divide
Week 5	Perception, Persuasion & Storytelling	Mid-Semester Feedback Discussion 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The psychology of storytelling • The science behind storytelling • How the internet has changed the psychology of persuasion and influence • How social media has revolutionized the way companies communicate

Week 6	Information Design	Podcast Final Project Script Discussion 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infographics and data visualization • The science behind design • Visual design for everyone • Data visualization for human perception
Week 7	Information Privacy & Copyright	Peer-Review of Final Project Script Discussion 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAPA-Issues of the information age (Canvas) • Copyright and social media (Canvas) • Social networking privacy, 1-4, 7-9 • U.S. Copyright basics • Copyright of social media sites
Week 8	Work Week	Final Project Video Final Feedback	

Assignment Description & Point Values

Week 1: Personal introduction (10 points)

You will prepare a brief 1-minute introduction video and post it in Canvas. 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 2: Case Studies Paper (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 4: Newscast (60 points)

Create a 3-4 minute video in the style of a professional newscast analyzing an article of your choice using materials presented in class and in your readings. You must have at least two images to support your points just like any report on a news program.

Week 5: Anonymous Mid-Semester Feedback (5 points)

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

Week 6: Podcast (60 points)

In a brief 4-6 minute podcast, discuss how particular 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 6: Final Project Video Script Draft (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 7: Peer-Review of Podcast Script (15 points)

You will review one of your classmates' verbatim final project video script based on the criteria listed on the assignment rubric provided by the instructor. You will also receive feedback about your work.

Week 8: 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?

Week 8: Anonymous Final Feedback (5 points)

You will complete a brief, anonymous survey about your experiences with and in the course.

Discussions (80 points)

Students participate in a discussion activity each week.