

ICT/IS 200: Information Literacy & Critical Thinking

Instructor: Dr. Renee Kaufmann

Contact: renee.kaufmann@uky.edu

Office: 335 Lucille C. Little Library

Office Hours: T 9am to 1pm (in office) or by appointment (via Zoom)

COURSE INFORMATION

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 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.

Technical Requirements

Please note: **THIS IS AN ONLINE ONLY COURSE.** Students are required to participate in activities and complete tasks online. Students must have access to Canvas through their UK ID to successfully complete this course. Students may also need access to Google Drive (For 2 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).

Click [here](#) to view UK’s Analytics and Technologies Department’s minimum requirements for technology for eLearning, but make sure you have access to the following:

- Broadband Internet (At least 5Mbps throughput)
- [Computer Specifications](#)
- [Supported Browsers](#)
- Web Cam
- Microphone

Technology Information & Resources

Distance Learning Students are expected to have a minimum level of technological acumen and the availability of technological resources. Students must have regular access to a computer with a reliable Internet connection and audio capabilities. Internet Explorer 7 (IE) or Firefox 2.x are the recommended browsers for those using a Windows-based PC. Those using Firefox 3.x may encounter problems with assignment uploads. Those using an Apple computer with MAC OS X (10.5.x) may use Firefox 3.x or Safari 3.x.

Please be certain that your computer and/or browser allow you to view Adobe Reader documents (.pdf). Microsoft Office and other software products are free for students:

<http://download.uky.edu/>.

As your instructor, I am your first go-to person for technology problems. If you need more immediate assistance, please contact UKIT.

Information Technology Customer Service Center (UKIT)

<http://www.uky.edu/UKIT/>

859-218-4357

Library Services & Distance Learning Services

- <http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/DLLS>
- Carla Cantagallo, DL Librarian
- Local phone number: (859) 257-0500, ext. 2171; long-distance phone number: (800) 828-0439 (option #6)
- Email: dllservice@email.uky.edu
- DL Interlibrary Loan Service:
http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb_id=253&llib_id=16

For more resources about online classes and student resources, visit

<http://www.uky.edu/ukonline/>

The School of Information Science has a page with a comprehensive list of technology resources here: <http://ci.uky.edu/sis/students/techtips>

Attendance Policy

This class is a community whose success is dependent on everyone's participation. Attendance per se in an online class looks a little different than a face-to-face course; you should plan to engage actively in the course material as if you were in a regular face-to-face class. That means checking in on Canvas often during the week at least two times, completing weekly readings and assignments, and keeping up with course deadlines.

Excused Absences

Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. *Senate Rules 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, (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 professor.

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. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable, but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257-3737, http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php).

In situations where a student's total EXCUSED absences exceed 1/5 (or 20%) of the class periods scheduled for the semester, students are strongly encouraged to withdraw (take a "W") from the class as per university policy. If a student has excused absences in excess of one-fifth of the class contact hours for that course, the student shall have the right to receive a 'W', or the Instructor of Record may award an 'I' for the course if the student declines to receive a 'W.'

Per *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 professor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

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 when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

Late Work

Late work will NOT be accepted except in very rare circumstances. Deadlines are clearly outlined on the syllabus, and you will receive reminders on Canvas regarding the due dates of assignments. If you know that you will be absent from class when a particular assignment is due, please let me know prior to the day of your absence so that we can make any necessary arrangements for you to complete the assignment early.

Email Policy

Please allow 24 hours for me to respond to an e-mail during the school week. On weekends, I will try to answer e-mails, but may not be able to do so until Monday. Before emailing me 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 me.

Office Hours

I have office hours available for meetings based on the office hours printed on the first page of the syllabus. If students cannot make it to the scheduled office hours, they should contact me via email to schedule another time.

Academic Integrity

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 at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. 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 Rules 6.3.1 (see <http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/> for the current set of *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: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

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. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary

Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at drc@uky.edu. Their web address is <http://www.uky.edu/DisabilityResourceCenter>.

Military Members and Veterans

We recognize the complexities of being a member of the military community and also a student. If you are a member of the military or a military veteran or dependent, please inform your instructor if you are in need of 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 your academic life. If you are aware of a complication, we will work with you and put you in contact with university staff members who are trained to assist you. Please 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.

Non-Discrimination Statement and Title IX Information

The University of Kentucky faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination policy.

Discrimination is prohibited at UK. If you experience an incident of discrimination we encourage you to report it to Institutional Equity & Equal Opportunity (IEEO) Office, 13 Main Building, (859) 257-8927.

Acts of Sex- and Gender-Based Discrimination or Interpersonal Violence

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, the Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) program (Frazee Hall – Lower Level; <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/VIPCenter/>), the Counseling Center (106 Frazee Hall, <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Counseling/>), and the University Health Services (<http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/uhs/student-health/>) are confidential resources on campus.

Description of Course Activities and Assignments

ICT/IS 200 is a multimodal course that requires you to use various multimedia tools such as MS Word, podcast, video, and other audiovisual computer applications to complete assignments. Instructors will suggest tools to use, and the Media Depot and Presentation U! at the Hub @ WT's (<http://libraries.uky.edu/hub>) are also great resources to use when constructing your assignments.

Course Assignments

- Attendance/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 75 points)
- 1 mid-semester feedback (5 points)

- 1 podcast (50 points)
- Draft and peer review of final project script (35 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.

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 for 3 credit points which is equal to 15 points towards the total points in the class (3 percent of your grade). 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 prorated across classes. Detailed information about available research studies can be found on the Research Participant Management System website found (<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. If you elect to participate in the alternative assignment, you must sign up for this by the midterm. More information about the alternative assignment can be found under the course content tab on the learning management system. The RSP will send out emails to students and open on January 22. The last day to complete a study is April 26. All studies will close at 11:59PM EST on that day.

Course Grading

Grading scale for undergraduates:

- 90 – 100% = A
- 80 – 89% = B
- 70 – 79% = C
- 60 – 69% = D
- Below 60% = E

Course 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.

Mid-term Grade

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

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. Assignments are due the Friday of that week's module before 11:59PM EST. Please be aware there are a few assignments with different due dates. Those are noted in the syllabus and on the assignment.

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.

Assignment Descriptions and Point Values

Week 2: Personal introduction (10 points)

You will prepare and present a brief 1-2 minute introduction speech to present in 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 6: Journal article analysis (75 points)

In at least an 800-word essay, critique a journal article in your field that is at least 10 pages long based on the principles described in your readings and in class. Address the questions found on the assignment prompt in Canvas, and provide an APA citation to indicate where you found the information.

Week 8: 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 12: Podcast (50 points)

In a brief 4-5 minute podcast, discuss a topic from the course that you really liked and would like to learn more about such as fake news, information design, the deep web, media bias, propaganda, etc. Issues you may want to discuss are your topic's value in today's world, what you wish would be different about it, or what you see as its future. 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 (10 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 4- to 5-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)

Students in this class are provided the option to participate in one or more research studies for 3 credit points which is equal to 15 points towards the total points in the class (3 percent of your grade). Detailed information can be found on page 3 of the syllabus and on the Research Participant Management System website found (<https://uksis.sona-systems.com>). The RSP will send out emails to students and open on January 22. The last day to complete a study is April 26. All studies will close at 11:59PM EST on that day.

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.

Online activities (60 points)

You will participate in a variety of online activities throughout the semester. Details will be provided in the weekly module.

Points possible: 400

Tentative Course Calendar

Module 1: Basics of Information Literacy

Week	Focus	Due Dates and Readings
Week 1: January 9	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review syllabus • Importance of information literacy • Why the modern world is bad for our brains
Week 2: January 14	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

Week 3: January 21	Creative Thinking and Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative approaches to problem solving • Pre-test due
-------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---

Module 2: Analyzing Information

Week	Focus	Due Dates and Readings
Week 4: January 28	Finding Quality Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies due • How search engines work • Chapters 1, 4, and 5 • Deep web sources and info
Week 5: February 4	Evaluating Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRAAP Test • Deconstructing a research article • Research bias
Week 6: February 11	Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal article analysis due • Persuasive reasoning
Week 7: February 18	Bias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of media bias • American Historical Association: Propaganda

Module 3: Presenting Ideas

Week	Focus	Due Dates and Readings
Week 8: February 25	Information Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infographics and data visualization • The science behind design • Visual design for everyone
Week 9: March 4	Persuasion and Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midsemester feedback due • Review your research credits • The new rules of persuasion • The story of propaganda • The role of persuasion in critical thinking
Week 10: March 11	Spring Break	Spring Break
Week 11: March 18	Storytelling & Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Podcast due • The psychology of storytelling • The science behind storytelling

Module 4: Transforming Information

Week	Focus	Due Dates and Readings
Week 12: March 25	Copyright	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. copyright basics• Copyright and social media (Canvas)
Week 13: April 1	Information Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four ethical issues of the information age
Week 14 April 8	Innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final project script due
Week 15: April 15	Work week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peer review of final script due
Week 16: April 22	Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post-test due• Final presentation due
<i>Finals Week</i>	<i>Finals Week</i>	<i>Finals Week</i>