Instructor:	Dr. Kari Benguria
Office Address:	310 Lucille Little Library
Email:	Kari.Benguria@uky.edu
Office hours:	Appointments by request
Preferred method of contact:	Email
	I usually respond to questions within 24 hours. My response time may be longer on weekends and holidays.

Course Description

Emphasizing critical inquiry and critical thinking through creativity, that is using and manipulating information in nontraditional ways, 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, evaluating, and using different information sources in an effective and ethical manner throughout the semester by engaging in assignments that transform the information learned from the texts into knowledge situated in multiple contexts including text and visual.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, the student will be able to:
1. Describe and apply information & 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. Create appropriate research questions for pertinent information discovery in various situations with the goal of generating knowledge.
5. Determine and access the most appropriate information sources for different contexts.
6. Evaluate information and information sources to meet different information needs.
7. Utilize information processes to solve problems and understand current issues in society.
8. Understand the ethical responsibilities of using information in many different contexts including print and online.

Required Materials

Becoming a Critical Thinker (8th ed.)
Vincent Ryan Ruggiero, 2015, Cengage Learning

Course Grading

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

Course Calendar

Week	Focus	Due Dates and Readings
June 8-June 10	Welcome and critical thinking	• **Review syllabus** • Importance of information literacy • Why the modern world is bad for your brain
Week 1:	Critical and creative thinking	• **Personal introduction due** • Ruggiero pp. 1-20, 25-42 Creative approaches to problem solving
Week 2:	Finding information	• **Case studies due** • Ruggiero pp. 47-62 • How search engines work • Chapters 1, 4, and 5 • Deep web sources and info
Week 3:	Reasoning and evaluating information	• **Field keyword search due** • Ruggiero pp. 103-120 • CRAAP test • The thinker's guide to fallacies
Week 4	Bias	• **Midsemester feedback due** • Types of media bias • The story of propaganda • Deconstructing a research article
Week 5	Persuasion and storytelling	• **Journal article analysis due** • Ruggiero pp. 131-147 • The science behind storytelling • The psychology of storytelling
Week 6	Information design	• **Opinion article due** • Fonts, colors, and images • Visualizing information for advocacy
Week 7	Information privacy and copyright	• Four ethical issues of the information age • Copyright basics • Copyright of social media sites
Week 8	Work week	• **Peer review of script due**
Finals		• **Podcast and reflection paper due August 3rd**

Submission of Assignments
All assignments must be submitted through Canvas as a .doc or .docx file and 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 submitted within 24 hours will receive a 10% penalty. Late work submitted within 48 hours will receive a 20% penalty, and late work received before 72 hours will receive 30% off. No late work is accepted after 3 days.

Attendance Policy
If you know ahead of time that you will be without access to course materials with an excused absence, please discuss this with your instructor and turn in any assignments ahead of time. Excuses for university-sponsored activities must be made *prior* to such absences. For any emergency situation that arises, **email your instructor** as soon as you know about the situation when possible.

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, and (e) 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.

Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the assignments scheduled for the semester are missed per University policy.

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.

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/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/.

Policies concerning academic integrity, excused absences and academic accommodations due to disability are available online at:
https://ci.uky.edu/sis/sites/default/files/policies.pdf

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 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 #: (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

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/veteransfor more available resources.

Assignment Descriptions and Point Values

Week 1: Personal introduction (10 points)

You will prepare and present a brief video introduction speech. 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 (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 200 words per person.

Week 3: Field keyword search (25 points)

Enter the same keyword(s) or phrase into at least two different popular search engines.
Look at the first results, take screenshots of the first three from each search engine, and
explain why those are top hits using the materials in the Moz reading to guide your
analysis. Next, use the same keywords in a field-related search engine in a deep web
source from the Open Education Database reading, and take a screenshot of the first
three results. Paste your screenshots into a Word document. Then, in a 200-word essay
on that same document, compare those results with the popular search engine's results,
and explain why you got the results you did.

Week 4: Midsemester feedback (5 points)
You will complete a brief, anonymous Canvas survey about the course so that your instructor can address any issues and can adjust for the remainder of the semester.

Week 5: Deconstructing a journal article (75 points)
In an at least 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 the video lecturers. Address the questions found on the assignment prompt in Canvas, and provide page numbers from the article that support your assertions.

Week 6: Deconstructing an opinion piece (30 points)
Find a written piece of over 500 words or an over 5-minute video from a *reputable* news source, and analyze it using the principles outlined in your readings and in lectures. In a 250-word essay, argue for why and how it is biased, address who might have sponsored the content, and describe how the source tailored the information to appeal to a particular audience.

Week 8: Peer review of podcast script (15 points)
You will review one of your classmates' podcast scripts based off the criteria listed on the rubric.

August 3rd: Podcast and reflection paper (150 points)
Research an issue you would like to study, and in a 5-10 minute podcast, summarize the major sides of the issue as well as your opinion on the topic. Write a script for the podcast that will be peer-reviewed, cite at least three reputable sources (beyond course readings and materials), and upload the recording to Canvas. You will also submit a reflection paper based on the questions listed in Canvas.

Activity points (40 points)
Students will participate in a discussion activity in each week.

Total number of points in course: 400