Course Information

Instructor
Carol Barry, Associate Professor
271 Coates Hall
carolbarry@lsu.edu (best communication method)

Teaching Assistant
Kaci Wilson
263B/266B Coates Hall
wilson1@lsu.edu (best communication method)

Meeting Time
Asynchronous via Moodle

Office Hours
Dr. Barry: By appointment
Ms. Wilson: TBA

Course Description
The course introduces information as a concept, and its changing roles, uses, and meanings in contemporary society

Course Objectives
Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Define “information”
- Explain how different segments of society utilize information to achieve goals and objectives
- Describe the evolution of information creation, dissemination and consumption
- Describe the power dynamics of information creation, dissemination, and consumption

Communication Objectives
The course assignments and activities are designed to help you develop your communication skills by providing you with the opportunity to:

- Write both formally and informally about course topics.
• Practice critical reading skills such as the identification of major aspects, analysis of bias, and ability to link material to the broader course topics and real-world experiences.

• Find and discuss content from other sources, identify key aspects of the content and connect it to our course and course themes.

• Efficiently and effectively communicate with your instructor and with each other to successfully complete the course.

Communication
Students must use the Moodle site created for this class to view class slides and communicate class related questions or suggestions to the instructor and classmates.

Method
Lecture/Discussion/Hands-on Exercises/Reading

General Education
This course is a general education course in the Social Sciences Area, and addresses students’ achievement of the following General Education Competency: LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of factors associated with global interdependence, including economic, political, cultural, and linguistic factors.

C-I Course
This is a certified Communication-Intensive (C-I) course which meets all of the requirements set forth by LSU’s Communication across the Curriculum program, including

• instruction and assignments emphasizing informal and formal writing;
• teaching of discipline-specific communication techniques;
• use of feedback loops for learning;
• 30% of the course grade rooted in communication-based work; and
• practice of ethical and professional work standards.

Students interested in pursuing the LSU Distinguished Communicators certification may use this C-I course for credit.

Information for Students with Disabilities
LSU policy requires a student who claims disability status to make a formal request for accommodation through the Office of Disability Services, 115 Johnston Hall, phone 225-578-5919. This office provides the necessary evaluation and recommendations to ensure full participation in the course.

Time Requirement
Successful completion of the course will require approximately three hours of outside work for each credit hour. Students in this three-credit course should expect to spend nine hours a week outside of class on class work and preparation.
Required Textbooks

There are three required textbooks for this course which are available as free e-books through LSU Libraries:


The remainder of class readings will be provided on the class Moodle page.

Course Week

This course will operate as a Monday-Sunday class. This means Monday will be the start of each week, and Sunday will be the end of each week.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Textbook readings will be identified by author’s last name and chapter(s).

**Week 1: Syllabus Review**
Aspray & Hayes, Introduction

**Week 2: What is “Information”?**
Feather, Introduction

Buckland, Chapters 1 & 2

**Week 3: From Script to Print**
Feather, Chapter 1

**Week 4: Mass Media and New Technology**
Feather, Chapter 2

Buckland, Chapter 3

**Week 5: Digital Divide Part 1**
Feather, Chapter 4


**Week 6: Digital Divide Part 2**
Feather, Chapter 5

**Week 7: Midterm Exam**
No readings
Weeks 8 & 9: Information Organization & Seeking  
Buckland, Chapters 4-7

Week 10: Information Economy  
Feather, Chapter 3

Week 11: Information & Democracy  
Feather, Chapter 6  
Aspray & Hayes, Chapter 8

Week 12: Information Privacy  

Weeks 13 & 14: Social Networks & Society  
Aspray & Hayes, Chapters 6 & 10

Week 15: Intellectual Property & Censorship  


Final Exam  
Posted December 7 and due December 10 at 11:55 pm.

Course Requirements & Evaluation

Readings & Lecture  
For each week, the readings and lecture videos will be posted on Moodle no later than 12:00 pm (noon) on Mondays.

Attendance & Participation (15%)  
Attendance in an online class is just as important as it is for a face-to-face course. The lectures for each week are broken into online Moodle Books. Each week you will be required to complete an exercise, reflection post, or short quiz. These weekly activities are worth up to 10 points towards your attendance grade. At the end of the semester, your lowest weekly grade will be dropped.

Midterm (25%) & Final Exams (25%)  
The midterm and final exams will be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. The exams will be a timed, online, open book and note structure. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Semester Essay Assignment (35%)  
During the second half of the semester, you will write a comparative essay focused on a particular aspect of the digital divide within the United States and another country (or international region). The
essay will be developed in multiple stages including proposal, outline, drafting, peer review, and final version. More details will be discussed during the semester.

**Grading Breakdown**

Attendance & Participation: 15%

Midterm Exam: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Essay Assignment: 35%

**Submission of Assignments and Grading Policy**

Written assignments are due on the specified date by 11:55 pm submitted via Moodle. Work submitted late without an acceptable excuse will be downgraded 10 points per week (or portion thereof) it is submitted late. Acceptable excuses must be submitted to the instructor via email and approved prior to the assignment deadline.

You may not resubmit work that has already been used in fulfillment of the requirement of this or any other course. Rules of academic conduct require that you not use the work of others without clearly indicating it as such. Academic misconduct will result in being reported to the LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability office. All students are required to know and abide by the [University’s Policy for Academic Integrity and the LSU Code of Student Conduct](#).

It is expected students will consult and appropriately cite the research and professional literature where merited. Grades will also be reduced for papers that include irrelevant content to “fill up space” to meet the length specifications for a paper. Please rely on either the Chicago or APA citation style manual for your submissions. These are available in the library, bookstore or may be purchased through online book vendors.

**Grading Scale**

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