



We acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm speaking Musqueam people.

The mission of UBC iSchool is to enhance humanity's capacity to engage information in effective, creative and diverse ways, through innovative research, education and design.

LIBR 508: Information Practices in Contemporary Society – Course Syllabus (3)

Program:	Master of Library and Information Studies
Year:	Winter Session, 2018 – 2019, Term 2
Course Schedule:	Tuesdays 2:00 pm – 4:50 pm
Location:	IKBLC 155
Instructor:	Darra Hofman
Office location:	SLAIS Adjunct Office
Office phone:	604.345.0332
Office hours:	Tuesdays, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (or by appointment)
E-mail address:	
Learning Management Site:	http://connect.ubc.ca or http://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/canvas/

Course Goal: This course prepares students from diverse scholarly and professional backgrounds to investigate, analyze and critique the social, political and cultural tensions surrounding contemporary information practices. Students will critically engage with the theoretical approaches, ethical groundings, methodological frameworks and technical skills utilized by information professionals.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify and analyze information-related problems of a community or organization [1.1]*
2. Frame and articulate information resources, services and systems that can address the information-related problems of a community or organization [1.1]*
3. Describe influences on individual and institutional information practices [1.4]*
4. Assess the implications of a contemporary information issue for an information organization [1.4]*
5. Apply knowledge of information technologies and resources to a real world situation, taking into account the perspectives of institutional and community stakeholders [1.3]*
6. Articulate ideas and concepts in a variety of communication modes including oral, written and multimedia [2.1]*
7. Provide direction and feedback within a team or small group setting [3.1]*
8. Synthesize scholarship from information studies and related fields, along with media accounts [4.1]*
9. Apply knowledge from existing scholarship to real-world information problems [4.1]*
10. Describe principles and ethics of the information professions [5.1]*
11. Critically evaluate the role of the information professions in societies [5.1]*
12. Describe the contributions of the information professions [5.2]*
13. Participate meaningfully in professional development opportunities [5.3]*



* Course objectives are stated in terms of student learning outcomes and reference the iSchool Statement on Graduate Competencies: <http://slais.ubc.ca/programs/about-department/graduate-competencies/>

Course Topics:

- Information Practice: Theory and Application
- Technology Mediation & Information Ethics
- Information Infrastructures
- Censorship & Filtering
- Intellectual Property (Copyright)
- Online Privacy in Contemporary Societies
- Information & Empowerment: Historically Situated Information Initiatives
- Personal Information Management
- Data: Big, Visualized and Analyzed
- Career Planning & Professional Responsibilities
- Emerging Topics (Making/Hacking, Fake News, Cyber Security)

Prerequisites: Core Course of the MLIS program.

Format of the course: The course will be a combination of full class discussion, student-led seminars, short lectures, online discussion, and exercises (in-class and online). Participation in class discussions (in person and online) and engagement with assigned readings is required; sharing additional, related material with the class is expected.

Required and Recommended Reading: Material from books, journals, videos, podcasts and websites will constitute required “reading”. These will be listed in the course learning management system (i.e. Canvas) and will be available directly through links or through UBC Library (e.g., electronic and/or print formats).

Course Assignments:

Assignment Name	Due Date	Weight
1. Participation	Throughout term	10%
2a. Seminar Facilitation	See sign-up sheet after first day of class https://canvas.ubc.ca/	25%
2b. Peer Feedback	2x during term https://canvas.ubc.ca/	20%
3a. Topic Briefing Proposal	February 12 th at 2:00 pm via Canvas	10%
3b. Topic Briefing Draft	March 12 th at 2:00 pm 2 print copies in class	5%
3c. Topic Briefing Final Version	March 26 th at 2:00 pm https://canvas.ubc.ca/	25%
3d. Topic Briefing Pitch	Slide is due on March 30 th In class presentation on April 2 nd	5%



Course Schedule [week-by-week]:

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
0	Jan. 1	NO CLASS (Happy New Year!) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarize yourself with Canvas - https://canvas.ubc.ca/ Complete assigned readings due next week 	
1	Jan. 8	Welcome and Introduction to LIBR508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Becoming a reflective practitioner Introduction to practice theory & information practices Overview of syllabus and course assignments Discussing & establishing expectations Assignment of seminar groups and topics 	
2	Jan. 15	Technology mediation	
3	Jan. 22	Seminar facilitation modeling: Information Infrastructures & the Information Professions	
4	Jan. 29	Intellectual property: Copyright	
5	Feb. 5	Censorship and filtering	
6	Feb. 13-16	ONLINE CLASS: Online privacy in contemporary societies	Topic Briefing Proposal
7	Feb. 19-23	Spring Break	
8	Feb. 26	Data: Big, visualized & analyzed	
9	March 5	Personal information management: Tools, practices & overload	
10	March 12	Innovative information practices: Designing, making & hacking	Topic Briefing Draft
11	March 19	Information & empowerment: Historically situated information initiatives	
12	March 26	Career planning professional roles & responsibilities	Topic Briefing Final
13	April 2	Course wrap up	Topic Briefing Pitch

Evaluation: All assignments will be marked using the [evaluative criteria](#).

Access & Diversity: Access & Diversity works with the University to create an inclusive living and learning environment in which all students can thrive. The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Access and Diversity unit: [<https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/access-diversity>]. You must register with the Disability Resource Centre to be granted special accommodations for any on-going conditions.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

iSchool (Library, Archival & Information Studies)
Faculty of Arts

Religious Accommodation: The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss with the instructor before the course drop date. UBC policy on Religious Holidays: <http://equity.ubc.ca/days-of-significance-calendar/>

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism

The Faculty of Arts considers plagiarism to be the most serious academic offence that a student can commit. Regardless of whether or not it was committed intentionally, plagiarism has serious academic consequences and can result in expulsion from the university. Plagiarism involves the improper use of somebody else's words or ideas in one's work. The UBC policy on Academic Misconduct is available here: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>.

It is your responsibility to make sure you fully understand what plagiarism is. Many students who think they understand plagiarism do in fact commit what UBC calls "reckless plagiarism." The UBC Learning Commons has a resource page on how to avoid plagiarism, with policies on academic integrity and misconduct found here: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoid-plagiarism/>

If after reading these materials you still are unsure about how to properly use sources in your work, please ask your instructor for clarification.