



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

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

**iSchool Mission: Through innovative research, education and design, our mission is to enhance humanity's capacity to engage information in effective, creative and diverse ways.**

### **LIBR 508 - Information Practices in Contemporary Society (3)**

<b>Program:</b>	Master of Library and Information Studies
<b>Year:</b>	Winter Session 2019/20, Term 2
<b>Course Schedule:</b>	Wednesday, 2:00 pm – 4:50 pm
<b>Location:</b>	IKBLC 155
<b>Instructors:</b>	Dr. Hannah Turner
<b>Office location:</b>	IKLBC 483
<b>Office phone:</b>	604.827.3927
<b>Office hours:</b>	Tuesday 12:00 – 2:00 pm
<b>E-mail address:</b>	<a href="mailto:hannah.turner@ubc.ca">hannah.turner@ubc.ca</a>
<b>Teaching Assistant (TA):</b>	Michelle Kaczmarek
<b>TA Office location:</b>	IKBLC 471
<b>TA Office hours:</b>	By appointment
<b>E-mail address:</b>	<a href="mailto:michelle.kaczmarek@ubc.ca">michelle.kaczmarek@ubc.ca</a>
<b>Learning Management Site:</b>	<a href="https://canvas.ubc.ca">https://canvas.ubc.ca</a>

**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.

**FNCC specialization:** The assignments in this course can serve the requirements of the First Nations Curriculum Concentration (FNCC). If students would like to take this course for FNCC credit, they are invited to contact the instructor to discuss this option.

#### **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 and Information Ethics
- Information Infrastructures
- Censorship and Filtering
- Intellectual Property (Copyright)
- Online Privacy in Contemporary Societies
- Data: Big, Visualized and Analyzed
- Critical Making
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Information and Empowerment: Historically Situated Information Initiatives
- Career Planning and Professional Responsibilities

**Co-requisite:** MLIS and Dual students: LIBR 509. Core courses in the MLIS program can only be taken by students registered in 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	Graduate Competencies
1. Participation	Throughout term	10%	1.4, 4.1
2a. Seminar Facilitation	See sign-up sheet after first day of class <a href="https://canvas.ubc.ca/">https://canvas.ubc.ca/</a>	25%	1.1, 1.4, 1.3, 2.1, 3.1, 5.1
2b. Peer Feedback	2x during term via Canvas	20%	5.3
3a. Topic Briefing Proposal	February 5 at 2:00 pm via Canvas	10%	1.1, 1.3, 1.4
3b.1. Topic Briefing Draft	March 18 at 2:00 pm via Canvas	5%	1.1, 3.1
3b.2. Peer Reviews of Topic Briefing Drafts	March 25 at 2:00 pm via Canvas	5%	3.1, 5.3
3c. Topic Briefing Final Version	April 3 2:00 pm via Canvas	20%	4.1, 5.1, 5.1, 5.2



3d. Topic Briefing Pitch	Slide is due on Monday April 6 In class presentation on Wednesday April 8	5%	2.1, 3.1
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**Course Schedule [week-by-week]:**

Week	Topic	Date	Assignment Due
1	Introduction	January 8	Quiz: Initial Expectations and Concerns
2	Technology Mediation	January 15	
3	Information Infrastructures	January 22	
4	Intellectual Property: Copyright	January 29	
5	Censorship and Selection	February 5	Topic Briefing Proposal Due
6	Online Privacy in Contemporary Societies – ONLINE CLASS	February 12	
	Reading Week - No Class	February 19	
7	Data: Big, Visualized and Analyzed	February 26	
8	Innovative Information Practices: Designing, Making and Hacking	March 4	
9	Diversity and Inclusion	March 11	
10	Information and Empowerment	March 18	Topic Briefing Draft Due
11	Library Labour and Career Planning	March 25	Peer Reviews
12	Open Door/Drop in Support	April 1	Topic Briefing Final (April 3)
13	Presentations	April 8	Topic Briefing Presentations

**Attendance:** The [UBC calendar](#) states: “Regular attendance is expected of students in all their classes (including lectures, laboratories, tutorials, seminars, etc.). Students who neglect their academic work and assignments may be excluded from final examinations. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to their instructors on return to classes. Any request for academic concession must be clearly expressed.” Up to two excused absences are allowed with prior notification to both instructors in this class. Additional absences will require a note from a health professional or Access and Diversity. Failure to provide this documentation could result in a lower course mark.

**Evaluation:** All assignments will be marked using the evaluative criteria given on the [iSchool web site](#). Assignments will not be accepted late. Consideration will be given to legitimate emergencies. If an



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extension is granted, a late penalty may be imposed; this will be discussed with both of your instructors when you request an extension.

**Required Materials:** All required materials are available on Canvas. Students are not required to buy any textbooks or reading material for this course.

**Policies and Resources to Support Student Success:** UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>)

**Centre for Accessibility:** Centre for Accessibility 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 Centre for Accessibility unit: (<https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility>). You must register with the Disability Resource Centre to be granted special accommodations for any on-going conditions.

**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 use sources in your work properly, please ask your instructor for clarification.

**Canvas:** UBC's e-learning system <https://canvas.ubc.ca> will be used to organize class resources, slides, and additional material. It will also be used to manage assignments, grades, and in-class



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exercises. Make sure that you check the course space in Canvas constantly for announcements, resources, assignments, feedback and grades.