

INF240: Information and Society (3 credit hours)*

Instructor: Hiromi MAENAKA, PhD

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Meeting times: 14:00-15:15

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 16:00-17:30 or by appointment.

Course Description:

Over the last few decades the advent of recent information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as Internet and mobile phones has made information more important than ever in our social, political, economic, and cultural interactions. We now live in a global information society. In this course we will examine major theories, components, characteristics, and influence of the information society. We will look at the past and present media and ICTs and examine how they have changed and are changing the ways we behave. We will discuss positive and negative impacts of the ICTs including such topics as virtual identity, information literacy, electronic education, information security and surveillance, protection of privacy, Web 2.0 community, and digital divide. Through these discussions students will gain insight about the information society and develop some prospect for its future.

Course Objectives:

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity to and understanding of information as a distinguishing feature of the modern world
- Define the information society and explain its characteristics using technological, economic, occupational, spatial, and cultural factors
- Develop an enhanced understanding of the information and communication technologies
- Develop a better understanding of key issues and challenges in the development of the Global Information Society
- Identify and explain the knowledge and skills necessary for us to gain as members of the information society

Policies: Students are expected to participate in all class sessions. All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade. The instructor commit herself to standards of academic conduct and impose sanctions against acts of plagiarism or other forms academic dishonesty following the AIU rules and regulations.

Class Materials

Textbook

Webster, Frank (2006), *Theories of The Information Society*. 3rd Edition, London:

Routledge.

Reference book

Webster, Frank Ed. (2004), *The Information Society Reader*. London: Routledge.

Additional readings will be assigned.

Grading Methods

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Research Project (Paper): 30%

Research Project (Presentation): 10%

Participation: 20%

Exams: Essay questions. Make up exams will not be given without proper documentation. You may be allowed to take an exam early if you know in advance that you will not be able to take the exam as scheduled.

Research Project: The student is to pick a topic relevant to the course, conduct an appropriate literature review, and write a paper. Each student is asked to prepare Power Point slides, to present the research project in class, and to respond to questions and critiques by classmates. Your presentation will be evaluated by the instructor and all the students in class. A written report of 10-12 pages should be turned in when the presentation is made. Further explanation and instruction will be provided in class.

General guidelines for writing a report:

- Typed, double spaced, consistent use of headings, and citations.
- Avoid plagiarism (taking parts of someone's work and presenting it as your own) but give credit for the author by including a proper citation in your writing.
- Be clear about what you think and present.

Grading criteria:

- Clarity and focus of the topic.
- Integration and demonstration of what you have learned from the course.
- Quality and quantity of references.
- Adequacy and strength of analysis, discussion, and conclusion.
- Organization, format and writing style (APA).

Participation:

Your participation is evaluated based both on your attendance and contribution to the class activities and discussions including short presentations of assignments. Your contribution will be assessed based on the quality and the frequency of your input.

Class Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Orientation/Introduction to the Course
2	Historical overview of modern society
3	Definition of information and information society
4	Development of information and communication technologies
5	Information economy: ICT and industrial organizations
6	Information and the market
7	Exam 1 Information and democracy
8	Information and security
9	Everyday life in the information society
10	Urban and rural communities in the information society
11	Digital divide
12	ICT and education
13	ICT policies and future of the information society
14	Research project presentation
15	Review Exam 2

The class schedule may be altered depending on the need of students. Any change will be notified in advance.

