School of Informatics and Computing
Social Foundation of Informatics
INFO B605

Course information

- Credit hours: 3
- Placement in curriculum: An elective in the Informatics master's and doctorate of philosophy degree program
- Prerequisites: Graduate standing or permission of instructor
- Co-requisites: None

Faculty
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Course Description

This course is designed to stimulate and direct thoughts around how society shapes innovations and advances in information technology. The course departs from the premise that the development and deployment of information technology is a social phenomenon, in which the applications of technology are products of both material and social dimensions. Research and practice of Informatics is a direct response to this social process.

The class will do some selected readings on those topics as well as independent readings. Students will participate in group research projects: assess societal issues related to information technology and technology advances in their work field, formulate a research project, review research literature, write a report, and present the project in class.

Course objectives

Upon the successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Synthesize, discuss the socio-economical impact of information technology and technological advances
2. Critically appraise research literature related to societal impact of information technology and technology advances
3. Formulate sound research projects related to current societal issues in the use of information technology and technology advances
4. Clarify the concept "informatics"

Texts/readings

Selected readings

Teaching strategies

Seminar with threaded topical discussions
Meeting Times: Online

Course Expectation:
Seminar preparation including review and synthesis of relevant literature
Completion of all course activities
Independent readings
Formulation of research needs to define/explore social foundations of informatics

Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Activities</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Participation in all seminars</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Contribute to regular scholarly exchange both within the classroom and through the project group</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of scholarly critique of relevant literature (during moderation of a seminar and written assignment)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiate, participate, report, and present concept definition and clarification (final paper)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Participation: postings to forums on Thursday and Saturday

*Contribute: Responsive and knowledgeable of required reading and in project group. Independent readings if needed

Grading Principles & Polices

Evaluation Forms: Students should review all grading forms that will be used by the instructor to grade projects, presentations, papers, and other assignments. Please see the course web site for all "Evaluation Forms." These documents will show you the checklist and criteria by which each class assignment will be evaluated.

If students want to see their grades at any time during the semester, they should contact the Instructor by phone or email.

Score: Criteria to Evaluate Threaded Forum Posting Discussions

| 4 | • Exceptional quality (not quantity)  
|   | • References demonstrate that individual can apply info from all reading assignments and add additional referenced information  
|   | • Demonstrates applied level of understanding through personal reflections and application  
|   | • Answer is well-developed and logically reasoned  
|   | • Provides original insights or responses; extends comments of others  
|   | • Supports and leads others in discussion; respectfully, but critically evaluates peer postings in light of own & other’s learning needs |

| 3 | • Superior quality (not quantity)  
|   | • References demonstrate that individual has completed all reading assignments  
|   | • Demonstrates applied level of understanding through personal reflections  
|   | • Answer is well-developed; logic may not be clear  
|   | • Provides original insights or responses; may not extend comments of others |
- Adds new insights to what others say; respects others and their ideas

2
- Satisfactory quality and quantity
- References demonstrate that individual has completed all reading assignments
- Primarily demonstrates a summary or paraphrasing of readings vs. applied level of understanding
- Answer is not fully developed; logic is not clear
- Provides no original insights; primarily a response to others; minimal originality
- Does not add new insight into topic; respects others and their ideas

1
- Quality does not meet expectations
- References demonstrate that individual has only partially completed reading assignments
- Only demonstrates a summary or paraphrasing of readings vs. applied level of understanding
- Answer reflects minimal effort
- Does not post reflections on peer postings by due date and/or is not respectful of others and their ideas

0
- Assignment not completed

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97 – 100</td>
<td>Outstanding achievement, given at the instructor’s discretion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100</td>
<td>Excellent achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A–</td>
<td>90 – 92.99</td>
<td>Very good work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.99</td>
<td>Good work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86.99</td>
<td>Marginal work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B–</td>
<td>80 – 82.99</td>
<td>Very marginal work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79.99</td>
<td>Unacceptable work (Core course must be repeated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76.99</td>
<td>Unacceptable work (Core course must be repeated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C–</td>
<td>70 – 72.99</td>
<td>Unacceptable work (Elective or core course must be repeated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69.99</td>
<td>Unacceptable work (Elective or core course must be repeated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 – 66.99</td>
<td>Unacceptable work (Elective or core course must be repeated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D–</td>
<td>60 – 62.99</td>
<td>Unacceptable work (Elective or core course must be repeated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>Unacceptable work (Elective or core course must be repeated)</td>
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MISSION STATEMENT
The Mission of IUPUI is to provide for its constituents excellence in
- Teaching and Learning;
- Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity; and
- Civic Engagement.

With each of these core activities characterized by
- Collaboration within and across disciplines and with the community;
- A commitment to ensuring diversity; and
- Pursuit of best practices.

IUPUI’s mission is derived from and aligned with the principal components—Communities of Learning, Responsibilities of Excellence, Accountability and Best Practices—of Indiana University’s Strategic Directions Charter.

STATEMENT OF VALUES
IUPUI values the commitment of students to learning; of faculty to the highest standards of teaching, scholarship, and service; and of staff to the highest standards of service. IUPUI recognizes students as partners in learning. IUPUI values the opportunities afforded by its location in Indiana’s capital city and is committed to serving the needs of its community. Thus, IUPUI students, faculty, and staff are involved in the community, both to provide educational programs and patient care and
to apply learning to community needs through service. As a leader in fostering collaborative relationships, IUPUI values collegiality, cooperation, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship as well as honesty, integrity, and support for open inquiry and dissemination of findings. IUPUI is committed to the personal and professional development of its students, faculty, and staff and to continuous improvement of its programs and services.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

All students should aspire to the highest standards of academic integrity. Using another student’s work on an assignment, cheating on a test, not quoting or citing references correctly, or any other form of dishonesty or plagiarism shall result in a grade of zero on the item and possibly an F in the course. Incidences of academic misconduct shall be referred to the Department Chair and repeated violations shall result in dismissal from the program.

All students are responsible for reading, understanding, and applying the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct and in particular the section on academic misconduct listed below. Refer to The Code > Responsibilities > Academic Misconduct at [http://www.indiana.edu/~code/](http://www.indiana.edu/~code/). All students must also successfully complete the Indiana University Department of Education “How to Recognize Plagiarism” Tutorial and Test. [https://www.indiana.edu/~istd](https://www.indiana.edu/~istd). You must document the difference between your writing and that of others. Use quotation marks in addition to a citation, page number, and reference whenever writing someone else’s words. To detect plagiarism instructors apply a range of methods, including Turnitin.com. [http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/libinfo/turnitin](http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/libinfo/turnitin)

**Academic Misconduct:**

1. **Cheating:** Cheating is considered to be an attempt to use or provide unauthorized assistance, materials, information, or study aids in any form and in any academic exercise or environment.
   a. A student must not use external assistance on any “in-class” or “take-home” examination, unless the instructor specifically has authorized external assistance. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the use of tutors, books, notes, calculators, computers, and wireless communication devices.
   b. A student must not use another person as a substitute in the taking of an examination or quiz, nor allow other persons to conduct research or to prepare work, without advanced authorization from the instructor to whom the work is being submitted.
   c. A student must not use materials from a commercial term paper company, files of papers prepared by other persons, or submit documents found on the Internet.
   d. A student must not collaborate with other persons on a particular project and submit a copy of a written report that is represented explicitly or implicitly as the student’s individual work.
   e. A student must not use any unauthorized assistance in a laboratory, at a computer terminal, or on fieldwork.
   f. A student must not steal examinations or other course materials, including but not limited to, physical copies and photographic or electronic images.
   g. A student must not submit substantial portions of the same academic work for credit or honors more than once without permission of the instructor or program to whom the work is being submitted.
   h. A student must not, without authorization, alter a grade or score in any way, nor alter answers on a returned exam or assignment for credit.

2. **Fabrication:** A student must not falsify or invent any information or data in an academic exercise including, but not limited to, records or reports, laboratory results, and citation to the sources of information.

3. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s work, including the work of other students, as one’s own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge. What is considered “common knowledge” may differ from course to course.
a. A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, formulas, graphics, or pictures of another person without acknowledgment.
b. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge indebtedness whenever:
1. directly quoting another person’s actual words, whether oral or written;
2. using another person’s ideas, opinions, or theories;
3. paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
4. borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
5. offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment

4. Interference: A student must not steal, change, destroy, or impede another student’s work, nor should the student unjustly attempt, through a bribe, a promise of favors or threats, to affect any student’s grade or the evaluation of academic performance. Impeding another student’s work includes, but is not limited to, the theft, defacement, or mutilation of resources so as to deprive others of the information they contain.

5. Violation of Course Rules: A student must not violate course rules established by a department, the course syllabus, verbal or written instructions, or the course materials that are rationally related to the content of the course or to the enhancement of the learning process in the course.

6. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: A student must not intentionally or knowingly help or attempt to help another student to commit an act of academic misconduct, nor allow another student to use his or her work or resources to commit an act of misconduct.

OTHER POLICIES
1. Right to revise: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as necessary and, in such an event, will notify students of the changes immediately.
2. IUPUI course policies: A number of campus policies governing IUPUI courses may be found at the following link: http://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.html
3. Classroom civility: To maintain an effective and inclusive learning environment, it is important to be an attentive and respectful participant in lectures, discussions, group work, and other classroom exercises. Thus, unnecessary disruptions should be avoided, such as ringing cell phones engagement in private conversations and other unrelated activities. Texting, surfing the Internet, and posting to Facebook or Twitter during class are generally not permitted. IUPUI nurtures and promotes “a campus climate that seeks, values, and cultivates diversity in all of its forms and that provides conditions necessary for all campus community members to feel welcomed, supported, included, and valued” (IUPUI Strategic Initiative 9). IUPUI prohibits “discrimination against anyone for reasons of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or [veteran] status” (Office of Equal Opportunity). Profanity or derogatory comments about the instructor, fellow students, invited speakers or other classroom visitors, or any members of the campus community shall not be tolerated. A violation of this rule shall result in a warning and, if the offense continues, possible disciplinary action.
4. Bringing children to class: To ensure an effective learning environment, children are not permitted to attend class with their parents, guardians, or childcare providers.
5. Disabilities Policy: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all qualified students enrolled in this course are entitled to reasonable accommodations. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of accommodations needed for the course.

Students requiring accommodations because of a disability must register with Adaptive Educational Services (AES) and complete the appropriate AES-issued before receiving accommodations. The AES office is located at UC 100, Taylor Hall (Email: aes@iupui.edu, Tel. 317 274-3241). Visit http://aes.iupui.edu for more information.
6. **Administrative Withdrawal:** A basic requirement of this course is that students participate in all class discussions and conscientiously complete all required course activities and/or assignments. If a student is unable to attend, participate in, or complete an assignment on time, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor. If a student misses more than half of the required activities within the first 25% of the course without contacting the instructor, the student may be administratively withdrawn from this course. Administrative withdrawal may have academic, financial, and financial aid implications. Administrative withdrawal will take place after the full refund period, and a student who has been administratively withdrawn from a course is ineligible for a tuition refund. Contact the instructor with questions concerning administrative withdrawal.

8. **Course Evaluation Policy:** Course evaluations provide vital information for improving the quality of courses and programs. Students are required to complete one course and instructor evaluation for each section in which they are enrolled at the School of Informatics and Computing. This requirement has three exceptions: (a) The student has withdrawn from the course; (b) only one student is enrolled in the section (in which case anonymity is impossible); and (c) the section is a laboratory that must be taken with a course having a different section number. Course evaluations are completed at [https://soic.iupui.edu/app/course­eval/](https://soic.iupui.edu/app/course­eval/). Course evaluations are open from the eleventh week. Course evaluations are anonymous, which means that no one can view the name of the student completing the evaluation. In addition, no one can view the evaluation itself until after the instructor has submitted the final grades for the course. In small sections, demographic information should be left blank, if it could be used to identify the student. A course evaluation must close before the grade for that course can be released. To ensure students have had ample opportunity to complete the evaluation, an uncompleted course evaluation could delay the release of the grade for up to a week.

11. **Communication:** The instructor should respond to emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, and announce periods of extended absence in advance. The instructor should provide weekly office hours or accept appointments for face-to-face, telephone, or teleconferenced meetings.

12. **Email:** Indiana University uses your IU email account as an official means of communication, and students should check it daily for pertinent information. Although you may have your IU email forwarded to an outside email account, please email faculty and staff from your IU email account.

13. **Emergency Preparedness:** Safety on campus is everyone’s responsibility. Know what to do in an emergency so that you can protect yourself and others. For specific information, visit the emergency management website. [http://protect.iu.edu/emergency](http://protect.iu.edu/emergency)