

SEMINAR IN INFORMATION STUDIES

GLIS702

FALL 2014 SYLLABUS

Time: Thursday, 9:00 – 12:00

Location: SIS Room 106

INSTRUCTOR

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DESCRIPTION

Students in a doctoral program in Information Studies must have broad familiarity with this multidisciplinary field as well as specialized knowledge in specific research areas. The Seminar will help students to locate their own specific areas of doctoral research within the broader field and to compare those areas with other traditions of inquiry. Students will be exposed to a wide range of theoretical models and research methodologies as applied in Information Studies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Describe the evolution of the field
- Define the key concepts
- Assess critically the research in the field

CONTENT

- Defining *Information Studies* and historical overview of a multidisciplinary field
- Breadth of research in information studies
- Identifying potential areas of research
- Doctoral studies: challenges and rewards

METHOD

- Seminars, student presentations, guest speakers, discussions

EVALUATION

1. Four (4) brief literature review reports (48%)
2. Three (3) class presentations on these reports (15%)
3. Critique of two theses (30%)
4. Active participation and contribution in the seminar (7%)

READING

Required text: Bawden, D., & Robinson, L. (2012). *Introduction to information science*. London: Facet.

See Additional Resources at Mycourses

Please note that resources shared or shown in class, including lecture slides, will be made available at MyCourses. However, these are not academic publications and should not be cited in academic research papers.

MCGILL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

ACADEMIC RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All students must be thoroughly familiar with the *Student Rights and Responsibilities*:
<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/>.

WRITTEN WORK

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities are urged to contact *the Office for Students with Disabilities* at 514-398-6009.

PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

USE OF MOBILE COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES IN CLASS

The use of mobile computing and communications (MC2) devices must, in all cases, respect policies and regulations of the University:

- The Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures: http://www.mcgill.ca/files/integrity/Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf
- The Policy Concerning the Rights of Students with Disabilities: <http://www.mcgill.ca/files/secretariat/Rights-of-Students-with-Disabilities-Policy-Concerning-the.pdf>
- The Policy on the Responsible Use of McGill IT Resources: <http://www.mcgill.ca/files/secretariat/Responsible-Use-of-McGill-IT-Policy-on-the.pdf>

COMMUNICATING VIA EMAIL AND OTHER CHANNELS

In line with McGill's Policy on E-Mail Communication with Students, any official McGill email sent to students will be addressed to their McGill UEA (Uniform E-Mail Address). It is the student's responsibility to ensure that time-critical e-mail is accessed, read and acted upon in a timely fashion. The E-Mail Policy applies to all McGill students and to all McGill employees, who manage official communications with students.

INTEGRITY

- "McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures."
- Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. No audio or video recording is allowed in class without the explicit permission of the instructor.
- For assignments, reports, presentations, or whenever the words or ideas of others are used, **sources must be properly quoted and cited**. For in-text citations and reference lists for written work adopt the style conventions of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA)*.

CLASS CONDUCT

This class follows McGill University policies, procedures and guidelines (<http://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies/students/>). Class participation is a valued aspect of this course. Discussions on class-related materials and business, whether they take place in the classroom or online (e.g., via the discussion board on MyCourses), should be conducted in a **respectful manner**, reflective of both the class policies (bulleted below) and McGill University policies, procedures and guidelines.

- Be considerate of your classmates by arriving to class *on time*.
- Be prepared for each class by completing the readings.
- Be an active and positive participant in class discussion:
 - Openly share analyses and opinions based on the readings and other class materials
 - Allow other class members the opportunity to participate

Students are encouraged to review *The Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities* (<http://www.mcgill.ca/deanofstudents/rights/>).

Jamshid Beheshti

August, 2014