

**INT 103: Information Literacy Syllabus**  
Grafton 302, 2:50-4:05 TH  
Fall 2007, Term 1



**Instructor:**

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**Course Description:**

In this class you will continue to develop your research and critical thinking skills which are necessary for you to become a full participant in our information society. Both practical and theoretical in scope, this class uses a mixture of lecture, in-class discussion, hands-on activities and assignments. Information literacy requires individuals to recognize when information is needed and to have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information.

**Course Goals:**

At the completion of this course you should be able to find and use a variety of information resources such as journal articles, primary sources, and reference material. We will talk about focusing a broad topic, conduct an effective search, distinguishing between scholarly and popular articles and documenting information sources using proper and complete citations. We will discuss some of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information.

**Grading Scale:**

Class participation/in-class exercises	=	45%
Database presentation	=	25%
Final	=	30%

Your final grade will be determined according to the following scale:

A	=	93-100	C	=	73-77
A-	=	90-92	C-	=	70-72
B+	=	87-89	D+	=	67-69
B	=	83-86	D	=	60-66
B-	=	80-82	F	=	59 and below
C+	=	77-79			

**Course Requirements:**

**Class participation/in-class exercises:** Because a major part of the course involves practical applications, attendance and participation are essential. Please notify the instructor before class if you are unable to attend. Any unexcused absence will result in a "0" for that day's class participation grade.

Rubric

- 10 pts - Full attendance, participation, and preparedness
- 7 pts - Attendance, prepared, and low participation
- 5 pts - Attendance, not prepared, low participation
- 3 pts - Attendance, not prepared, no participation
- 0 pts - No Attendance

**Database Presentation:** You will be required to learn about a database and present a demonstration to the class.

**Final:** The final will be a take home exam to be handed out one week before the last day of class and will be due on the last day of class.

**Honor Code Statement:** Each assignment presented for this course must be your original work. Putting your name on your assignments is your pledge to abide by the Honor Code.

**Blackboard:** Documents related to the course, including the reserve readings, can be found at the following web address: <http://blackboard.mbc.edu>. Login to the Blackboard system and select ER-INT103: E-Reserves Information Literacy. It should be listed under My Courses on the right side of the screen. Choose the Course Documents link to find the reserve readings.

**Reserve Readings:** This course does not use a textbook. However, you are required to read seven articles. The readings are on reserve through blackboard.

Badke, W. (2004). Taking charge. In *Research strategies* (chap. 1). New York: iUniverse, Inc.

Badke, W. (2004). Blowing away the information fog: information hierarchies, library catalogs and bibliographies. In *Research strategies* (chap. 3)). New York: iUniverse, Inc.

Bourhis, J. (2003). Choosing supporting material wisely. (Chap. 2). *Style manual for communication studies*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Dee, J. (2007, July 1). All the news that's fit to print out. *The New York Times Magazine*, 34. Retrieved July 23, 2007, from Expanded Academic database.

Embleton, Kimberly and Doris Small Helfer. (2007, June). The Plague of Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty. *Searcher*, 15(6), 23-26. Retrieved August 16, 2007, from ABI/INFORM Trade & Industry database.

Gerhardt, D. (2006, May 26). The rules of attribution. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, p. B20. Retrieved July 28, 2006 from Expanded Academic.

Markey, E., (D-MA). (2007, January 13). *Net neutrality and media ownership issues*. Keynote speech presented at National Conference for Media Reform, Memphis, TN.

Plagiarism. *MBC student handbook*.

Williams, B. (2006, December). Enough About You. *Time: Person of the Year*, 168(26), 78. Retrieved August 16, 2007, from ABI/INFORM Global database.

## Course Schedule:

- Aug 28 Introduction  
The Information Cycle  
**Before the next class read:**  
**Rep. Markey's speech**
- Aug 30 Who owns information?  
What is the cost?  
What is the future?  
**Before the next class read:**  
**Dee's "All the news that's fit to print out."**  
**William's "Enough about you."**
- Sept 4 Web 2.0  
Web Evaluation  
**Before the next class read:**  
**Bourhis's Choosing supporting material wisely.**
- Sept 6 The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Evaluation of resources.  
**Before the next class read:**  
**Badke's Taking charge**
- Sept 11 Brainstorming. Keywords. Reference Sources.
- Sept 13 Boolean logic. Database basics.  
Finding articles in full-text databases.
- Sept 18 Advanced database searching, Abstracting and Indexing.  
A-Z Journal List  
**Before the next class read:**  
**Badke's Blowing away the information fog**
- Sept 20 The stacks. Library Catalog.
- Sept 25 Database Presentations
- Sept 27 Presentation follow up.  
WorldCat & ILL.  
Copyright.
- Oct 2 **Final distributed.**  
NoodleBib and Citing sources.  
**Before the next class read:**  
**Plagiarism from the Student Handbook**  
**Gerhardt's The rules of attribution**  
**Embleton and Helfer's "The Plague of Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty"**
- Oct 4 Plagiarism
- Oct 9 **Final due.** Class evaluation. Wrap up.