Course Title: INF 335 Information in Cyberspace
School: School of Information, the University of Texas at Austin
Semester: Spring 2013
Instructor: Lori Eichelberger
TA: Cary-Anne Olsen

Course homepage:
https://cyberspace.ischool.utexas.edu

Course Description:
INF 335: Information in Cyberspace, or i335, is an introductory course for undergraduate students that provides an overview of the history and social impact of Internet and Web technologies with an emphasis on technology self-sufficiency and information literacy.

Course Objectives:
The purpose of this course is to prepare students to explore new ideas, review established thoughts, and approach information technology in a critical, thoughtful manner. The goal is to pull back the curtain on the inner workings of information technology and show students that an understanding of the basics can guide them to make good decisions, to protect themselves, and to navigate confidently through information spaces of all types. The skills that students will develop in this class will be useful throughout their academic career and will help them follow all of their interests both in their chosen field and life in general.

In this course, students will learn:
- More about technical applications that make the Internet possible;
- The political, financial, and social implications of creating and maintaining the global computer Network known as the Internet;
- How to find, evaluate, and cite Internet information resources;
- To create and maintain your own Web pages with XHTML and CSS

At the end of this course, students should be able to:
- Maintain a small Web site on a Unix server;
- Discuss the cultural and social issues related to information in cyberspace;
- Understand the fundamentals of TCP/IP and Inter-networking;
- Protect yourself and others from worms, viruses, and other malicious computer attacks;
- Find and evaluate information on the Internet using a variety of methods and sources;
- Write valid XHTML (eXtensible HyperText Markup Language) and CSS code.

Prerequisites:
There are no prerequisite classes for i335.

Required Readings:
All required readings for this course are available through the course modules.

Assignment and Grading:
This course uses a 600-point grading system. Points for the six modules come from four areas:

- *Class Participation (120 points total / 20 points each module)* A participation forum is available for each module, except Module 1.
- *Quiz (120 points total/ 20 points each module)* A short quiz will follow each module.
- *Project (180 point total / 30 points each module)*
- The project will differ from module to module but will incorporate the XHTML and CSS skills taught throughout the course.
- *Written Assignment (180 points total / 30 points each module)* The subject matter of the written assignment will also differ with each module but the expectations for each written assignment will remain the same. It is expected that students submit written work that is thoughtful, critical and meets college-level writing standards.

Academic Integrity:
It is the policy of this course that academic dishonesty in any form will result in an automatic grade of "F" in the course. This policy is strictly enforced.

Course Schedule:
Students will complete five primary instructional modules, which cover the basics of the following areas:

- Information Searching and Evaluation
- Computer and Internet Security
- Copyright
- Unix and Linux
- Internet History

Additionally, students will complete a final, seventh "Choose Your Own Adventure" module, which will be a project focused on your choice of one of the following topics:
- Information Architecture (with a Website final project)
- Accessibility (with an accessibility evaluation final project)
- Usability (with a usability evaluation final project)
- Gender and Technology (with a written final project)
- Video Games (with a written final project)

Each module contains:
- Learning objectives for the module;

- 10-15 pages of introductory content on the topic, developed by the i335 team;
- A few outside online audio, video, and reading assignments;
- Video tutorials dealing with the module assignments;
- A writing assignment related to the module content;
- An XHTML assignment, which will teach students to build and maintain their own i335 home page.

Each i335 course module runs on the same two-week schedule. Modules open on every other Wednesday at midnight, and all assignments for that module are due two weeks later at 4:59pm.

Disability Accommodations:
Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Religious Holidays
By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.