Objectives

1. Appreciate Information Studies as an intellectual area and a social phenomenon
2. Develop broad familiarity with research questions and approaches across Information Studies
3. Learn to read and analyze academic research articles, including those outside one’s area of interest
4. Understand and demonstrate skills in bibliographic analysis
5. Develop succinct research proposals appropriate for different fields in Information Studies

Introduction

The core of this course is reading, analyzing and discussing academic articles across a broad conceptualization of Information Studies as an intellectual area. The material covered will give you a clear base of familiarity with the major research questions, approaches and genres of Information Studies. As a scholar in Information Studies you will eventually be expected to have extremely deep familiarity with your chosen areas of concentration, but (as we will see) Information Studies is a broad area and a competent Information scholar is able to intelligently appreciate and discuss research with scholars from quite different backgrounds.

Class Structure

This is a doctoral seminar. As such class sessions will primarily consist of group discussions. These discussions will help us, as a group, to understand and analyze an article both for its empirical and theoretical content and as a piece of research. We will learn how to approach these discussions in the first class.

Assignments

*Weekly papers.* Students will prepare a 2-3 page paper each week, focusing on two of the readings for that week. The paper will consist of a structured analysis and a free-form reflective short essay. We will discuss the form of the structured analysis in the first class meeting. Each student should be prepared to initiate a discussion based on their papers.
Bibliographic analysis. One student each week will present a bibliographic analysis of the readings for that week, analyzing the citations in the readings and showing how this reading has come to be cited in the literature since its publication. This analysis will be conducted with the Web of Science tool; we will cover doing these analyses in the first two meetings of class.

Research Design papers. There are two of these papers, one due early in the semester, one later. Each paper will choose a single phenomenon (a different one for each paper) and present three research designs approaching the phenomenon from different areas of Information Studies. The designs must be coherent and reasonable and, most importantly, must demonstrate an understanding of the discourse to which they are aimed, using appropriate research questions, language, methods, justification and reference literature. Students will present these in the final week of class.

Schedule

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<th>Class #</th>
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<td>3 Sept</td>
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<td>No Class-----</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10 Sept</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>17 Sept</td>
<td>Information Organization</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>24 Sept</td>
<td>Information Behavior</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1 Oct</td>
<td>Information Institutions</td>
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<td>8 Oct</td>
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<td>Research Design 1</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>15 Oct</td>
<td>Information Retrieval</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>22 Oct</td>
<td>Social Informatics/Sociotechnical</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>29 Oct</td>
<td>Human Computer Interaction</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>5 Nov</td>
<td>Computer supported cooperative work</td>
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<td>12 Nov</td>
<td>Information Systems</td>
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<td>19 Nov</td>
<td>Information Policy and Economics</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>26 Nov</td>
<td>Digital Humanities</td>
<td>Thanksgiving week, note class is on</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>Research Design Presentations</td>
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Bibliography

Introduction

1. Booth et al. Chapter 3 “From Topics to Questions”
2. Davis (1971) “That’s interesting”

Information Organization
1. Booth et al. Section III (Chpts 7 – 11) “Making a claim and supporting it”
3. Mai (2010) Classification in a social world

**Information Behavior**

**Information Institutions/ Scholarly Communication**

**Information Retrieval**
4. SWIRL 2012 Report (Lorne)

Socio-Technical systems/Social informatics

Human Computer Interaction

Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)
Information Systems

Information Policy and Economics

Digital Humanities