

NEW COURSE IN FALL 2008!

LIS 201 – Fall 2008

The Information Society*

School of Library and Information Studies
Comm-B (research, writing, and speaking skills)
Breadth requirement Z (humanities / social science)
Hybrid in-person/online course – **4 credits**
Instructor: Professor Greg Downey (gdowney@wisc.edu)



COURSE OVERVIEW

Today, in an environment of web-enhanced workplaces, schools, and shopping malls, we routinely speak of living in an "information society". But what does this term mean and where did it come from? How has information — in oral, print, broadcast, and now digital/networked forms — been tied to notions of democracy, capitalism, social justice, and "progress" in American history? And if we really are living in a "postindustrial," "global," and "informational" economy today, what does such a world mean for our understandings of our fragmented selves, our cultural affiliations, and our social responsibilities to each other? Through both lecture and discussion, both readings and films, and both offline and online experiences, this course will guide students in interrogating the information society. As a Comm-B course open to all majors, students will both experiment with new personal publishing tools like text weblogs and audio podcasts, and hone more traditional skills of academic argument and presentation.

THIS IS A "HYBRID" IN-PERSON AND ONLINE COURSE

LECTURE: one 50-minute in-person lecture and one asynchronous online lecture per week

DISCUSSION: one 50-minute in-person section and one asynchronous online section activity per week

COURSE GRADING

There are 100 points available in this course:

- Two five-minute oral presentations based on readings (one live, one podcast) – 10 points
- Four written papers of increasing length and complexity – 40 points
- Peer review of three of those papers – 5 points
- A midterm exam and a final exam, based on readings and lecture – 25 points
- Participation in discussion section and online activities – 10 points
- Ten pop quizzes in discussion section, based on readings and online lecture – 10 points

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN ALL MAJORS AND ALL COLLEGES!
OPEN TO FRESHMEN!
FILLS YOUR COMM-B REQUIREMENT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit <http://www.journalism.wisc.edu/~gdowney/index.php>