IRLS651 Information Policy & Cultural Perspectives

Updated Mon, 08/24/2009 - 19:00

COURSE NAME, NUMBER AND PREREQUISITES:

[Prerequisite: IRLS 504 or consent of the instructor.]

Instructor: Elizabeth Martinez

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine library information policy issues from cultural perspectives, an increasing interest as the nation becomes more diverse with immigrants from around the world, and indigenous groups gain influence. For example, the library profession supports the principle of intellectual freedom and open access to information, a policy that is not common in many cultures around the world. The library principles of access to information and intellectual property rights are often in conflict with many indigenous people.

Topics to be Discussed

• **Leadership & Information Policy:** Who are the players? The issues?

• **The Public Interest:** Increasingly diverse virtual communities. Who are the new publics? How do we manage competing public interests? Privacy now. Google’s impact. How are cultural perspectives voiced?

• **The Internet & WIRED Voices:** Local and national politics. Trends & Cultural Voices. Where are the cultural perspectives?

• **The Economy of Information & Ethical Issues:** What is the price of information? How does “society” determine the value of information? Are cultural perspectives included in “society?” What is equitable access? What are the consequences of cultural perspectives on information policies?

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

You need to edit the next sentence (cutting out the competencies which do not apply) and also cut out this sentence. Successful completion of this course will help students achieve the A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2 and C3 competencies outlined at [http://sirls.arizona.edu/about/studentCompetencies](http://sirls.arizona.edu/about/studentCompetencies).

More specifically, by the end of the semester, students will be able to:

**Course Objectives**

Students will:

1. Acquire a basic understanding of current national information policies, and cultural perspectives – particularly Hispanic and Native American.
2. Become knowledgeable about the players, stakeholders, voices, and resources.
3. Discuss the importance of current national information policies to local libraries and librarians.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:
ALAWON, Washington Office, American Library Association (ALA)

COYLES INFORMATION HIGHWAY HANDBOOK; A Practical File on the New Information Order, American Library Association, 2001. This is good background on librarians and current national information policy. See also:

American Indian Cultural & Research Journal (UCLA)

Ethnic Caucuses of the ALA

First Monday, www.firstmonday.org

Office of Information Technology Policy (OITP), ALA.

WIRED magazine; see December 2005 through spring 2006.

Race: The power of an illusion. (PBS video series to be shown)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignments: All assignments will include opportunities to cover cultural perspectives on the topics. Each of the assignments is described below. Assignment due dates will be posted online.

1. Readings & Critical Notes (10 points each or 20 total): Students will review two articles from a suggested list or other readings, and write a critical review that includes cultural perspectives on the issue. The review should be two pages, double-spaced.

2. Research on Policy Groups (20 points): Students will select and research a policy group from those suggested below or others identified, and present their findings: players, stakeholders, priority focus, funding, influence, and importance to information professionals.
   - American Indian Research & Policy Institute
   - Congress of American Indians
   - Center for Internet & Democracy
   - Center for Digital Democracy
   - Center for Democracy & Technology
   - Center for Media & Democracy
   - Pew Charitable Trusts
   - The Tomas Rivera Policy Institute
   - Latino Issues Forum
   - The Long Now Foundation
   - The Electronic Frontier Foundation
   - Oyate
   - Children’s Defense Fund
   - Youth Noise
   - NAGPRA
   - Voto Latino
   - Native American Telecommunications

3. Information Issue (40 points): Select and research a current information policy issue from a cultural perspective. An example is to write on “access to information” from an indigenous point of view, or on Google’s global influence on cultural issues. Interview two librarians for their perspectives on the issue. This is a 12 page, double-spaced paper in APA style.

Attendance & Participation (20 points)

Attendance and participation are critical. Students will participate in discussions on various information policy issues such
as privacy now, Google-ization of libraries, and social networking tools and implications for libraries including observations and insights that contribute to the understanding of the subject.

COURSE, SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Code of Integrity

Students are expected to abide by The University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity. 'The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student's submitted work must be the student's own.' If you have any questions regarding what is acceptable practice under this Code, please ask an Instructor.

Accommodating Disabilities

The University has a Disability Resource Center. If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Disability Resource Center and request that the DRC send me, the Instructor, official notification of your accommodation needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Assignment Policies

Incompletes

The current Catalog reads

The grade of I may be awarded only at the end of a term, when all but a minor portion of the course work has been satisfactorily completed. The grade of I is not to be awarded in place of a failing grade or when the student is expected to repeat the course; in such a case, a grade other than I must be assigned. Students should make arrangements with the instructor to receive an incomplete grade before the end of the term ...

If the incomplete is not removed by the instructor within one year the I grade will revert to a failing grade.

GRADING:

Grades

A = 90+ points. Assignment research and presentation demonstrate superior knowledge and understanding of the issues; demonstrated knowledge of resources through active participation in discussions - expressed opinions, questions and comments.

B = 80-89 points. Assignment research and presentation demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of the issues; some knowledge of resources indicated through participation in discussions.

C = 70-79 points. Assignment research and presentation demonstrate superficial coverage of issues; limited knowledge of resources with limited participation in discussions.

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT ADDRESSES:

Elizabeth Martinez
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  - IRLS540 - Introduction to Archives
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  - IRLS560 Information Resource Development
  - IRLS564 The Organization and Administration of a Corporate Library
  - IRLS571-001 Introduction to Information Technology (Smith)
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  - IRLS588-001 - Issues in Information Resources: Health Information in Ethnic-Cultural Communities and Environments
  - IRLS608 Planning and Evaluation of Libraries and Information Centers
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