COURSE NAME, NUMBER AND PREREQUISITES:

Under construction 10/18/09

Information Structures and Retrieval Tools
IRLS696e

Prerequisite: IRLS 504 or consent of the instructor.

This is a seminar course that qualifies as a PhD Seminar. Masters students can also enroll in the course.

Spring 2010 Instructor: Martin Frické

This course meets Tucson: Tuesdays, 3:30-6:00pm, in the SIRLS Multi-purpose room.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

"PhD Seminar course on Information Structures and Retrieval Tools." (3 credit hours)

The Organization of Information, understood abstractly, involves information objects (IOs), eg books, journals, articles, web pages, images, CDs, DVDs, video tapes, letters, podcasts, etc and metadata about those IOs. The IOs have identifiers or locators, and they may have aliases and surrogates and bookmarks, and they may consist of parts and wholes. Organization consists in imposing some scheme on parts of this for the purposes of retrieval or management ie for performing or supporting information tasks. Computers, digitization, and digital convergence have rendered this a very fluid area. There are

- conceptual advanced schemes such as Functional Requirements for Bibliographical Records (FRBR)
- supporting or transitional schemes such as Functional Requirements for Authority Data (FRAD), Resource Description and Access (RDA), and Dublin Core metadata schema
- traditional librarian techniques such as controlled vocabularies and authority
- traditional librarian tools such as bibliographies, catalogs, citation indexes, finding aids, indexes, inventories, pathfinders, registers
- modern librarian or computer science tools such as database, and search engines
- other tools, such as desktop search engines and bookmarking or tagging schemes
- abstract data or graph theoretic or logical structures such as association lists, bags, collections, faces, hierarchies, multiple inheritance hierarchies, lists, trees matrices, tables, etc.

The course is a research course which addresses problems concerning these information structures and their associated retrieval tools.
COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the course is to allow graduate students to work in a study group at research in the Organization of Information.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

There is no required textbook. Readings will be determined collectively on a week by week basis, and they will be made available the supporting d2l site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

<Tentative>

Participation: This course is a seminar and us such students are expected to do the majority of the talking. The participation will be evaluated based on quantity and quality.

Presentations: Students will be expected to lead the class discussion of the readings in addition to presenting one session on their research paper.

Short Papers: Students will write 5 short papers 1-2 pages on one of the weekly readings of their choice.

Research Paper: In consultation with the instructor, students will select a topic related to the course, and will write an in-depth research paper of 20-30 pages.

COURSE, SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Code of Integrity

Students are expected to abide by The University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity, see . '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

• Submission: The papers are to be submitted usually by the d2l assignment Dropbox, which can be found as a link on the toolbar. (A less preferable alternative is by d2l internal email to the Instructor, put, for example, 'Assignment One' as the subject and send the assignment either as the message or as an attachment to the message. Pure electronic documents need to be either plain text or formatted using HTML (just 'Save As' HTML using your favourite word processor).
• Format, style and content: Content is all important in this course. Style should be plain and transparent (be guided by the classic Strunk and White Elements of Style). If English is not your native language, and you would like some assistance, please contact the Instructor. The format is unimportant, except that it should be html.
• Late papers: There will be due dates and students are expected to meet them. With an online course like this,
difficulties can arise (such as computers or d2l being temporarily out of service) and appropriate decisions will be made as needed.

Incompletes

The 1997-8 University of Arizona General Academic Manual, p.23 reads

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

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

GRADING:

<Content coming>

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT ADDRESSES:

Please raise queries by email. When the course is up and running, and you are a registered student, use the course's internal email (this is best for me as it keeps material related to this course in one place). Failing that, use ordinary email to mfricke(AT)u.arizona.edu.

There will be an online office hour, during which I will be available in a Chat room and also on Skype. This will be at a time to suit you students, but it may well be an evening at 7pm MST.

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Navigation

- Browse Site
- For Authors

Courses

- Syllabi
  - Fall 11
  - Summer 2011
  - Spring 11
  - Fall 10
  - Summer 10
  - Winter 10-11
  - Spring 10
    - IRLS506 Research Methods (Heidorn)
    - IRLS506 Research Methods (Spr10)
    - IRLS515-010 Organization of Information (Spring 2010 Virtual, Cui)
    - IRLS515-011 Organization of Information (Virtual, Frické)
    - IRLS520-010 Ethics for Library and Information Professionals (Virtual Fallis)
Guided exploration

Click a term to initiate a search.

Audience

for Students (92)
for Faculty (28)
for Alums (24)
for Staff (17)
for Prospective Students (7)
more...