

Louisiana State University
School of Library & Information Sciences
LIS 1000
Information Literacy & Critical Analysis

Catalog Description: Introduction to information creation and organization; critical analysis and evaluation of information for research and everyday life.

Instructor: Charity Cantey, MLIS, Ph.D.

Contact Information

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Office hours: Meetings available by appointment

Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how information is produced and organized in society
- Explain how information is affected by cultural, political and economic factors
- Discuss issues related to copyright, intellectual freedom, and the public vs. private ownership of information
- Examine information critically and determine its authenticity, credibility, intellectual content, bias, etc.
- Determine the proper tool needed to locate desired information
- Use print, electronic, and Internet indexes in various academic disciplines to locate information
- Use library reference tools and classification systems

Integrative Learning Core

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The [LSU Integrative Learning Core](#) (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BoR Area of Mathematics and Analytical Reasoning and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Inquiry and Analysis.

Required Textbooks:

Potter, W. J. (2016). *Introduction to media literacy*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications. Publication date: [2016] ISBN-13: 978-1483379586, ISBN-10: 1483379582.

Bernnard, D., et al. (2014). *The Information literacy users guide: an open, online textbook*. (G. Bobish & T. Jacobson, Eds.). Geneseo, NY: Open SUNY Textbooks. Publication date: [2014] ISBN: 9780989722629, Available online through LSU Middleton Library.

15-week course outline:

- Week 1: Introduction to Information Literacy; Identify; Scope
Bernnard, et al. Chapters 1 & 2; Exercises (2)
- Week 2: Plan; Gather
Bernnard, et al., Chapters 3 & 4, Exercises (2)
- Week 3: Evaluate; Manage
Bernnard, et al. Chapters 5 & 6, Exercises (2)
- Week 4: Present
Bernnard, et al. Chapter 7, Exercise, Topic Proposal
- Week 5: Visual Literacy
Bernnard, et al. Chapter 8, Exercise
- Week 6: Science Literacy
Bernnard, et al. Chapter 9, Exercise
- Week 7: Conclusion
Bernnard, et al. Conclusion, Annotated Bibliography
- Week 8: Midterm exam: Bernnard, Chapters 1-9 & Conclusion
- Week 9: Introduction to Media Literacy
Potter Chapters 1 & 2, Discussion forum
- Week 10: Mass media industries
Potter Chapters 3 & 4, Discussion forum
- Week 11: Mass media audience
Potter Chapters 5 & 6, Discussion forum
- Week 12: Mass media content
Potter Chapter 7, Discussion forum
- Week 13: Mass media effects
Potter Chapter 8, Discussion forum
- Week 14: Springboard
Potter Chapter 9, Discussion forum
- Week 15: Review
Potter, Media Issue Analysis
- Finals week: Final exam: Potter Chapters 1-9

Grading Scheme:

LSU letter grades will be assigned according to this table. Your end of semester numerical grades are rounded to whole numbers (for example, 94.49 = 94, 94.50 = 95). Grades for assignments turned in after the specified deadline will be reduced by 10% unless permission is granted by the instructor due to unforeseen circumstances.

97-100%	A+
93-96.99%	A
90-92.99%	A-
87-89.99%	B+
83-86.99%	B
80-82.99%	B-
77-79.99%	C+
73-76.99%	C
70-72.99%	C-
67-69.99%	D+
63-66.99%	D
60-62.99%	D-
0-59.99%	F

Final grades will be computed from the following activities:

Weekly Forums/Assignments	15%
Topic Proposal	5%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Media Issue Analysis	15%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

Description of activities that will be graded:

Weekly forums/assignments: Students will complete the assigned exercises for each chapter in Bernard, et. al., for weeks one through six (a total of nine exercises) and will respond to questions posted by the instructor for weeks nine through fourteen (a total of nine exercises).

Topic proposal: Each student will select a current issue of interest and submit a topic proposal for their annotated bibliography and media issue analysis. The proposal will include a description of the topic and identify at least 3 articles from the media related to the topic following either APA or MLA format.

Annotated bibliography: Each student will create an annotated bibliography of at least 20 articles from the media for a current issue of interest following either APA or MLA format. The annotation will include an evaluation of the validity and reliability of the source of the article and the article itself.

Media issue analysis: Following the examples given in the appendix to Potter, students will analyze all sides of the current media issue used for the annotated bibliography. This will

include an analysis of the content for validity and reliability in order to understand the complexity of the issue.

Mid-term and Final Exams: Exams will be essay exams given online. The questions will address principles, concepts and terms covered in the texts and in the discussion forums.

Expectations

LSU's general policy states that for each credit hour, the student should plan to spend at least three hours working on course related activities, including attendance. Because this course is for three credit hours and is online, students are expected to spend a minimum of nine hours each week on some combination of class participation (including discussion forums), readings, homework, and other assignments as specified in the syllabus.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. The student is expected to attend all classes. A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lecture notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been missed. The course instructor will determine the validity of a student's reason(s) for absences and will assist those students who have valid reasons in accordance with [LSU PS22](#).

LSU student code of conduct

You may not resubmit work that has already been used in fulfillment of the requirement of this or any other course. Rules of academic conduct require that you not use the work of others without clearly indicating it as such. Academic misconduct will result in being reported to the LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability office. All students are required to know and abide by the [University's Policy for Academic Integrity and the LSU Code of Student Conduct](#).

Disabilities

LSU policy requires a student who claims disability status to make a formal request for accommodation through the [Office of Disability Services](#), 115 Johnston Hall, phone 225-578-5919. This office provides the necessary evaluation and recommendations to ensure full participation in the course.

Academic Success

The primary ingredients of your academic success are attending class, managing your time efficiently, taking good notes, and developing good critical thinking and communication abilities. LSU has a number of excellent resources that will assist you in developing these skills. The place to begin is the [Center for Academic Success](#). The CAS offers guidance on what learning strategies are best suited to your talents, tutoring in the basic subjects, and workshops on a variety of topics, from note taking to time management. [Communication Across the Curriculum](#) assist students in developing the communication skills necessary for academic and professional success. Finally, with respect to professional success, the [LSU Olinde Career Center](#) can assist you in choosing a major and a profession that best suits your talents and passions and help you develop a four year career plan to ensure success when you graduate from LSU.