

New York City College of Technology
Library Department
LIB 1201 – Research & Documentation for the Information Age
3 hours, 3 credits
Prerequisite: ENG 1101

Instructor: Nora Almeida

Class Times: Monday/Wednesday 10-11:15 a.m.

Classroom: A543 (Library)

Email: nalmeida@citytech.cuny.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Website: <https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/almeida1201fa2015>

Course Description

In this course we will explore issues in research and documentation for text, images, and multimedia. We will investigate where information comes from and how it is organized. We will examine the ethics of information use and determine how to critically evaluate sources. Throughout the course, we will create and present research and documentation projects using traditional and emerging media.

Learning Outcomes

For the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe the ways that information is produced and organized in a variety of formats.
- Create and articulate a relevant, manageable research topic for your assignments.
- Successfully search for and acquire appropriate information about your research topic in a variety of media and formats.
- Critically evaluate and select information sources for your assignments and projects.
- Use information ethically and responsibly with an awareness of copyright and fair use.
- Synthesize information on a topic from a variety of sources and present your analysis in writing and orally.
- Collaborate with a group to complete, modify, and document a process online.
- Apply documentation methods and citation styles appropriately in your own work.

Course Methodology

This course is a writing and research intensive seminar and will be structured as a guided discussion.

Required Materials

Badke, W. B. (2014). *Research strategies: Finding your way through the information fog*. New York: iUniverse, Inc. (ISBN 9781491722336). This text is also available as an eBook in several formats from the author's website: <http://williambadke.com/textbook.htm>; several copies are on reserve in the library (Z710 .B23 2014).

Additional required materials to read, listen to, or watch are listed on the **Course Schedule**.

Reliable access to the internet and to a computer with word processing software are essential for successful completion course assignments.

Assignments

Citizenship 15%: Citizenship is something like participation but entails a bit more; it means being a good student: arriving to class on time and prepared, participating in large and small group discussions actively, attentively, and effectively, refraining from distracting or negative behavior in class, and consistently engaging and investing in the work of the course and in your own development as a researcher, writer, and thinker.

Blog Contributions 20%: Short blog posts are related to the assigned reading are required throughout the course. These written responses will be used as the starting point for in-class discussion. You can find blog prompts and due dates on the Course Schedule.

Research Project 40%: The research project is comprised of a Topic Proposal 5%, Process Presentation 5%, Annotated Bibliography 10%, and Research Paper 20%. Details and guidelines for each component of the assignment will be posted on the course website and discussed in class.

Online documentation project 15%: In small groups assigned by the professor, students will build an online resource and collaboratively document their process.

Group presentation 10%: Each student group will give a 10-15 minute class presentation describing their online resource and presenting the finished online documentation project.

Course Policies

Attendance & Participation: To do well in a seminar course you must be present and ready to contribute. The City Tech attendance policy allows a student to be absent during the semester without penalty for up to 3 class sessions. Additional absences will lower your grade; more than 6 absences will result in a failing grade.

Reading & Assignments: All readings and assignments should be completed *prior to class*. You must bring your book and/or assigned reading materials to each class.

Personal Electronics: During some class sessions we will be using laptops and other technology for our work. With reasonable exception, the use of laptops, tablets, and cellular phones is otherwise prohibited in class.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Attempts to pass off other's work as your own will result in an automatic failing grade for the course.

NYCCT Statement on Academic Integrity: Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion. <http://www.citytech.cuny.edu/files/students/handbook.pdf>

Additional Resources for Students

The *College Learning Centers* offer tutoring and writing support in 2 locations: Atrium G18 and Voorhees 217. For more information: <http://websupport2.citytech.cuny.edu/learningcenters/>

For help with accessing the campus wifi network, or for information on computer labs for students, visit the *CIS Help Desk*.

For additional research support, please don't hesitate to visit the *Library Reference Desk* or the library website: <http://library.citytech.cuny.edu>

Required Readings and Viewings

The Information Landscape: Media and Production

Eland, Thomas. "Critical Thinking, Deviant Knowledge and the Alternative Press." Minnesota Association for Continuing Adult Education Update Newsletter (2004): 4-6. 2004. Web.

Freedman, Jenna. "About Zines." zines.barnard.edu. Barnard Zine Library, 2005. Web.

Jabr, Ferris. "The Reading Brain in the Digital Age: The Science of Paper versus Screens." scientificamerican.com. Scientific American, 11 Apr 2013. Web.

Manjoo, Farhad. "Podcasting Blossoms, but in Slow Motion." New York Times Online, 17 June 2015. Web.

Mod, Craig. "Post Artifact Books and Publishing." CraigMod.com, 2011. Web.

"Papyrus to Pixels." economist.com. The Economist Essay, 11 Oct 2014. Web.

Postrel, Virginia. "Who Killed Wikipedia?" psmag.com. Pacific Standard, 17 Nov 2014. Web.

Sullivan, Andrew. "Why I blog." TheAtlantic.com. The Atlantic, 1 Nov 2008. Web.

"Why Does Wikipedia Work?" TED Radio Hour. NPR and TED, 12 Jul 2013. Web.

Current Issues in Information and Media

"Bloggers Rights." EFF.org. Electronic Frontier Foundation, n.d. Web.

Cavoukian, Ann, and Dan Kruger. Freedom and Control: Engineering a New Paradigm for the Digital World. Privacy by Design, 2014. Web.

"Fan Fiction and the Law." On the Media Podcast. WNYC, 8 Mar 2013. Web.

"A Blogger's First Amendment Rights and Responsibilities." On the Media Podcast. WNYC, 24 Jan 2014. Web.

Grey, C.G.P. "Copyright: Forever Less One Day." 2011. Film.

"How Social Media is Changing Government and Governance Around the World." Brookings Institute Podcast. Brookings Institute Office of Communications, 25 Nov 2013. Web.

"Larry Lessig: Laws That Choke Creativity." TED.com. TED Talks, 2007. Film.

Newman, Abraham L. "What the 'Right to Be Forgotten' Means for Privacy in a Digital Age." Science, 347.6221 (2015): 507-508.

Slater, Derek. "Illegal Art." News. creativecommons.org. Creative Commons, 2005. Web.

Seaman, Andrew. "Learning from Gawker's Attempt to Erase the Past." Code Words: The SPJ Ethics Committee Blog. Society of Professional Journalists, 20 Jul 2015.

"Timeline of NSA Domestic Spying." EFF.org. Electronic Frontier Foundation, n.d. Web.

"Timeline: Privacy and the Law." NPR Special Series. National Public Radio 28 Oct 2009. Web.

United States. General Services Administration. "GSA Social Media Policy." gsa.gov, 17 Jul 2009. Web.

How Information and Media Are Organized

"APA Formatting and Style Guide." owl.english.purdue.edu. Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL), 2009. Web.

Cohen, Joshua. "Letter of Recommendation: Alternative Search Engines." New York Times Online, 25 June 2015. Web.

Dye, Jessica. "Folksonomy: A game of high-tech (and high-stakes) tag." EContent, 29.3, (2006): 38-43. Web.

"MLA Formatting and Style Guide." owl.english.purdue.edu. Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL), 2009. Web.

Pariser, Eli. "Introduction." The Filter Bubble: What the Internet Is Hiding from You. New York: Penguin Press, 2011. 1-20. Print.

Shirky, Clay. "Ontology is Overrated: Categories, Links, and Tags." shirky.com, 2005. Web.

Weinberger, David. "Building the New Infrastructure of Knowledge." Too Big to Know: Rethinking Knowledge Now That the Facts Aren't the Facts, Experts Are Everywhere, and the Smartest Person in the Room Is the Room. New York: Basic Books. 2012. 173-196. Print.

Wright, Alex. "Family Trees and trees of Life." Glut: Mastering Information Through the Ages. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. 2008. 22-38. Ebook.

Research and Critical Evaluation

"About." Unredacted. nsarchive.org. The National Security Archive. George Washington University, n.d. Web.

Carr, David. "Journalists Dancing on the Edge of Truth." New York Times Online, 19 Aug 2012. Web.

Martin, Brian. "The politics of research." Information liberation: Challenging the corruptions of information power. London: Freedom Press, 1998. Web.

Meszaros, MaryBeth. "Who's in Charge Here? Authority, Authoritativeness, and the Undergraduate Researcher." Communications in Information Literacy 4.1 (2010): 5-11. Web.

Future of Information

Buckels, Erin E., Paul D. Trapnell, and Delroy :. Paulhus. "Trolls Just Want to Have Fun." *PsycEXTRA Dataset* (2014): 97-102. Web.

Carey, Benedict. "Learning to See Data." *New York Times Online*, 27 Mar 2015. Web

Kestenbaum, David. "How College Students Battled Textbook Publishers to a Draw." *All Things Considered*. National Public Radio, 9 Oct 2014. Web.

Ronson, Jon. "How One Stupid Tweet Blew Up Justine Sacco's Life." *New York Times Magazine*, 12 Feb 2015. Web.

Vaidhyanathan, Siva. "Google's Ways and Means." *The Googlization of Everything*. University of California Press, CA, 2010. 51-81. Print.

Wong, Alia. "The Renaissance of Student Activism." *TheAtlantic.com*. The Atlantic, 21 May 2015 Web.