

University of North Texas
Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Information Science

INFO 6945 Doctoral Seminar in Information Issues

Instructor & Contact Information

Dr. Jiangping Chen, Professor and Chair. Department of Information Science
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Teaching Assistant

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Meeting Dates and Time

Weekly Meeting Time: Wednesday 2:30 pm – 5:20 pm

Zoom: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/88947339294>

Meeting ID: 889 4733 9294

Location for 002 Students: Discovery Park Room B157

Office Hour

The instructor hold office hour every [Wednesday 10 – Noon](#). It is recommended that you send an outside class email to the instructor Jiangping.chen@unt.edu to make an appointment even during the office hour so she could arrange the meetings with different students. Please start the subject of the message with “INFO 6945”

The TA’s office hour time will be announced in class.

The class has a website in Canvas (<https://unt.instructure.com/>). Please use your EUID to access the class website in Canvas.

Formal Catalog Course Description

Discussion of general issues and specific research efforts in information science and related fields by faculty, students and guests. Presentation of dissertation proposals and completed dissertations by students.

Prerequisites: (informal) this course is only open to PHD students who have taken INFO 6000 and INFO 6940. If you have not taken INFO 6000 and INFO 6940, it is better you take this class next year.

Course Goals, Learning Objectives

Through a semester-long reading, writing, and discussion, students will be able to:

- Define information science, including its important concepts, scope, sub areas, and relevance to other disciplines;
- Describe and present one or more important information problems that are currently investigated in the broad field of information science;
- Prepare professional presentations and interactions for academic events and conferences;
- Develop professional curriculum vitae and skills for job seeking in academics and professions;
- Develop or improve critical thinking skills as an information science scholar;
- Develop or improve scholarly reading and writing skills.

To achieve the above course goals and learning objectives, each student is expected to spend at least 12 hours of off-classroom work. Students with insufficient reading and writing preparations are expected to spend more time on reading and writing.

Materials

This class has no required textbooks. Readings will be specified for each week as class goes.

Teaching Philosophy and Pedagogy

My philosophy of teaching is that the teacher and the students engage in learning in a stimulating environment where we grow mentally, emotionally, and socially together. I am committed to work with students and create an atmosphere where students can meet their full potentials. Students are invited to share their ideas and take challenges. Also, I am happy to listen and take your suggestions and comments to improve our learning.

Most of my classes are considered challenging or very challenging, as I do demand students to work hard, think hard, and take challenges. However, my evaluation of students will focus more on their efforts and progress. You should not worry about your grade in my classes if you have spent sufficient time and effort, have communicated with me to understand ways to improve, and are able to follow the instructions. Students will learn tremendously in my courses that will prepare them well as information professionals or academia.

As a seminar course at Ph.D. level, this class requires active participation in class discussions. The instructor and the student will take turn to lead the discussions with questions. Guest speakers are invited to interact with students. There is not wrong question in this class! Please ask if you have a question so I can answer, or we can discuss.

Student Academic Support Services

- [Code of Student Conduct](#): provides Code of Student Conduct along with other useful links
- [Office of Disability Access](#): exists to prevent discrimination based on disability and to help students reach a higher level of independence
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#): provides counseling services to the UNT community, as well as testing services; such as admissions testing, computer-based testing, career testing, and other tests
- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [UNT Learning Center](#): provides a variety of services, including tutoring, to enhance the student academic experience
- [UNT Writing Center](#): offers free writing tutoring to all UNT students, undergraduate and graduate, including online tutoring
- [Succeed at UNT](#): information regarding how to be a successful student at UNT

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Assessments

A student's grade is composed of the following:

Attendance and Participation:	15%
Weekly Assignments:	40%
Information Topic Presentation	20%
Term Paper:	25%

Grading will be based on completeness, organization, clarity and creativity.

A = 90 –100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below

Grading

Class Attendance and Participation (15%). Students are required to attend each class meeting and actively participate in discussions and/or presentations. Prior to the meeting, please prepare your questions that may result from the weekly assignments, other readings, or experience for discussion.

Weekly Assignments (40%)

Students will have weekly assignments, which will be critical literature review of 2 referred papers. We will discuss what a critical literature review is at the first day of class and more in later classes. The specification of critical literature review will be available when semester

begins. Each student needs to submit at least 10 weekly assignments. He/she does not need to submit the weekly assignment for the week he/she is leading the discussion.

Information Topic Presentation (20%)

Each student will be required to pick a topic, select up to 2 readings for the class, lead a discussion of that topic in class for 45 minutes, and write a report regarding the topic. The topics will be discussed in the first class. Students will pick his/her topic by the end of the second week. Specification will be discussed in the first class. A report needs to be submitted two weeks after the presentation.

Term Paper (25%. the report 20%, the final presentation 5%)

Each student will submit a term paper that addresses an information problem assigned or negotiated with the instructor. This paper should have a new topic different from the students' other classes. We will discuss the topics for the term paper in class. A topic will be determined for each student in the first three weeks. Specification for the Term Paper will be available and discussed at the second week of by Semester.

COURSE EVALUATION

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The instructor welcomes and encourages feedback from students anytime during the semester.

The formal student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at <http://spot.unt.edu/> or email spot@unt.edu.

COURSE CALENDAR

The contents of the course are organized into 17 weeks for this semester. Table 1 lists the suggested study schedule, meeting dates, and assignment due dates.

Table 1. INFO 6945 Study Schedule, Meeting Dates, and Assignment Due Dates

Week	Duration of the Week	Meeting Date	Content/Discussion Focus	Assignment Due (Monday 8:00am of the week or specified otherwise)
1	Jan 11 – 16	Jan. 13	Syllabus, Academic Integrity, Information Science Overview, Assignment specifications	Self-Introduction online
2	Jan 17 – 23	Jan. 20	Information Issues Overview Topics for Term Paper	
3	Jan 24 – Jan 27	Jan. 27	Information Issues (1)	Weekly Assignment (1)
4	Jan 31 – Feb 6	Feb. 3	Information Issues (2) – led by student from now on	Weekly Assignment (2)
5	Feb 7 –13	Feb. 10	Information Issues (3)	Weekly Assignment (3)
6	Feb 14 – 20	Feb. 17	Academic Conferences and Preparations Information Issues (4)	Weekly Assignment (4) Student Information Topic Presentation Report (Presented on Feb. 3), Due days for others follow the same timeline.
7	Feb 21 – 27	Feb. 24	PhD Life and Proposals Information Issues (5)	Weekly Assignment (5)
8	Feb 28 – March 6	March 3	Information Issues (6)	Weekly Assignment (6)
9	March 7 – 13	March 10	Information Issues (7)	Weekly Assignment (7)
10	March 14 – 20	March 17	Information Issues (8) Or guest speaker	Term Paper – Report 1 Weekly Assignment (8)
11	March 21 – 27	March 24	Information Issues (9)	Weekly Assignment (9)
12	March 28 – Apr 3	March 31	Information Issues (10) Or guest speakers	Weekly Assignment (10)
13	Apr 4 – 10	April 7	Information Issues (11)	Weekly Assignment (11)
14	Apr 11 – 17	April 14	Information Issues (12)	Weekly Assignment (12)
15	Apr 18 – 24	April 21	Career Development Information Issues (13)	Weekly Assignment (13)
16	Apr 25 – May 1	April 28	Term Project Presentation (1)	
17	May 5	May 5	Term Project Presentation (2)	Term Paper (May 1 st Midnight)

COURSE POLICIES

Assignment Policy

Students should submit the assignments and the term paper via the class site in canvas.unt.edu: docx (or .doc) files.

Late Work and Missed Work

Students are expected to submit assignments and projects on time. **The due dates are Mondays 8:00am of the week specified in Table 1. INFO 6945 Study Schedule, Meeting Dates, and Assignment Due Dates.** If an extenuating circumstance such as a medically diagnosed illness or family emergency arises, which prevents you from submitting your assignments, you should contact the instructor as soon as possible before the due date. Late work without the permission of the instructor will receive a grade with a 10% penalty per day after the due date. A student who is having trouble with assignments is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor as early as possible for personal advising.

Course Incomplete Grade

A grade of Incomplete (I) will be given only for a justifiable reason and only if the student is passing the course. The student is responsible for meeting with the instructor to request an incomplete and discuss requirements for completing the course. A form needs to be filled (https://lt.unt.edu/sites/default/files/incomplete_form.pdf) and approved by the Department. If an incomplete is not removed within the time frame agreed to by instructor and student, the instructor may assign a grade of F.

Withdrawal

The UNT Registration Office (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class>) describes and explains withdrawal policies and deadlines. The UNT semester course schedule lists specific deadlines regarding withdrawal. A grade of Withdraw (W) or Withdraw-Failing (WF) will be given depending on a student's attendance record and grade earned. Please note that a student who simply stops attending class and does not file a withdrawal form may receive an F.

UNT POLICIES

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to [UNT Policy 06.003](#), Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. Also, it authorizes the instructor to determine if academic dishonesty has occurred. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty

- **First Time Violation.** The instructor will follow UNT procedure and report the case to UNT Office for Academic Integrity (AIO). Student will receive “0” for the assignment/project that he/she performs academic dishonesty;
- **Second Time Violation.** The instructor will follow UNT procedure on multiple violation and report the case to UNT AIO. Student will receive an “F” for this course.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information, see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.