

## **Syllabus**

### **Information in Society (IS 200)**

Fall 2005

Department of Information Studies, UCLA

<http://courses.gseis.ucla.edu>

### **Prof. Leah Lievrouw**

Tuesday (Section 1), Wednesday (Section 2), 5:30 – 8:50 p.m.

Geology Building 4660

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1 to 3:30 p.m. or by appointment

Office: 216 GSE&IS Bldg.

Phone: 5-1840

Email: [llievrou@ucla.edu](mailto:llievrou@ucla.edu)

### **PhD Student Readers:**

**Janet Kaaya ([jkaaya@ucla.edu](mailto:jkaaya@ucla.edu))**

**Shari Lee ([Sharil@ucla.edu](mailto:Sharil@ucla.edu))**

## **Course Description**

In this course students are introduced to the ways that information and informing processes shape and are in turn shaped by society. The nature of information is explored in light of information-related social practices, tools and institutions that have developed over time. Key social issues related to information creation, distribution and use are reviewed, including debates regarding the evolution of information society.

## **Goals and Objectives**

The main goal of the course is to familiarize students with information and information-related phenomena, both historically and in contemporary society. In addition, the course has several objectives. As a result of their participation, students taking this course should be able to:

1. Articulate a definition of information grounded in the research literature and everyday practice, which accounts for both its physical form and its meanings in social life.
2. Describe major developments in the social history of information and communication technologies and their social/cultural consequences.
3. Identify major information-related social issues in contemporary society, and describe the various perspectives that characterize current debates on those issues.
4. Discuss the development of the "information society" as distinguished from previous historical eras and formations, the views on its prevalence and significance, and its social, cultural and institutional manifestations.

## Course Requirements

*Readings/Discussions.* The course is taught primarily as a lecture, with some in-class discussion; students are expected to come to class having read and ready to discuss the assigned readings for that week, as listed below under "Weekly Topics and Readings" and available at the course website (<http://courses.gseis.ucla.edu>).

*Examinations.* There are two exams in the course, a midterm (due Week 6, November 1–2) and a final examination (due Exam Week, December 15 for both sections). Both will be written take-home exams, to be posted in advance at the course web site. Students will submit their exams to the website rather than in hard copy form. More information about the examinations will be provided in class and on the web site.

*Wiki Assignment.* Students will be expected to contribute to wikis posted at the course website, on the five issues covered in the last half of the course:

- Information Equity, Access and Power
- Intellectual Freedom, Surveillance and Security
- Intellectual Property and the Information Commons
- Information Institutions, Work, and Professions
- Information and Cultural Heritage

Students will post annotated links to websites or other materials for each topic to create a resource that will be shared by the whole class. Additional details about the wiki project will be provided in class and online.

*Grading Formula.* Grading for the course will be based on the following formula: midterm and final exams, 35% each; wiki project, 15%; and participation in class discussions, 15%.

## Weekly Topics and Readings

***Scheduling Note:* Because the Wednesday class meeting in Week 9 falls on the evening before Thanksgiving (November 23), the Wednesday class will be canceled that week and class meetings for the Wednesday group will be extended into exam week. The dates [in brackets] in the weekly schedule below are for Wednesday class meetings after Thanksgiving, including exam week.**

Week 1	Oct 4,5	Introduction to the Course: The Information Society
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Schement, J.R. and Lievrouw, L.A. (Eds.) (1987). *Competing Visions, Complex Realities: Social Aspects of the Information Society*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex.

Introduction: Fundamental Assumptions of Information Society Research, pp. 1–10.

A Third Vision: Capitalism and the Industrial Origins of the Information Society, pp. 33–45.

Webster, F. (2006, in press). The information society revisited. In L.A. Lievrouw and S. Livingstone (Eds.), *Handbook of New Media* (Updated Student Edition), pp. 443–457. London: Sage.

**See course website for additional suggested readings**

<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Oct 11, 12</b>	<b>What is Information?</b>
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Braman, S. (1989). Defining information: An approach for policymakers. *Telecommunications Policy*, Sept., 233–242. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Buckland, M.K. (1991). Information as thing. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, 44(5), 351–360. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Case, D.O. (2002). *Looking for Information: A Survey of Research on Information Seeking, Needs, and Behavior*. San Diego: Academic Press.

Chapter 3: The concept of information, pp. 40–64.

Chapter 5: Related concepts, pp. 80–113.

Lesk, M. (1998). How much information is there is the world? Discussion paper prepared for Time & Bits Conference, hosted by the Getty Information Institute, Los Angeles, CA, February. Available: <http://www.longnow.com/10klibrary/TimeBitsDisc/ksg.html>.

**See course website for additional suggested readings**

<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Oct 18, 19</b>	<b>From Orality to Literacy</b>
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**Video: "A Matter of Fact"**

Clanchy, M.T. (1994). Looking back from the invention of printing. *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress*, 39(3), 168–183.

Goody, J. and Watt, I. (1963). The consequences of literacy. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 5, 304–345. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Hobart, M.E. and Schiffman, Z.S. (1998). *Information Ages: Literacy, Numeracy and the Computer Revolution*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Orality and the problem of memory, pp. 11–31.

Early literacy and list making, pp. 32–61.

McLuhan, M. (1964). *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*. New York: Mentor.

Chapter 8, The spoken word: Flower of evil?, pp. 81–84.

Chapter 9, The written word: An eye for an ear, pp. 84–90.

Ong, W. (1982). The orality of language. In *Orality and Literacy*, pp. 5–15. New York: Methuen.

**See course website for additional suggested readings**

<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Oct 25, 26</b>	<b>Information in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction</b>
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Special forum: "How Revolutionary was the Print Revolution?" *American Historical Review*, 107(1), February 2002. Available online through the UCLA library catalog.

Elizabeth Eisenstein, "An unacknowledged revolution revisited"  
Adrian Johns, "How to acknowledge a revolution"

Brown, J.C.; & Duguid, P. (1995). The social life of documents. *First Monday*. Available: <http://www.firstmonday.dk/issues/issue1/documents/>

John, R.R. (2000). Recasting the information infrastructure for the industrial age. In Alfred D. Chandler, Jr. and James W. Cortada, *A Nation Transformed by Information: How Information Has Shaped the United States from Colonial Times to the Present*, pp. 55–106. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Ong, W. (1982). Print, space and closure. In *Orality and Literacy*, pp. 117–138. New York: Methuen.

Wells, H.G. (1938). World brain: The idea of a permanent world encyclopedia. From *World Brain* (New York: Doubleday). Available: [http://sherlock.berkeley.edu/wells/world\\_brain.html](http://sherlock.berkeley.edu/wells/world_brain.html) (See also the Wikipedia entry on Wells, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Brain/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Brain/).)

**See course website for additional suggested readings**

<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Nov 1, 2</b>	<b>From the Global Village to the Network of Networks TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE ONLINE SUNDAY, NOV 6, midnight</b>
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**Online video clip: "Epic 2014"** <http://www.robinsloan.com/epic/>

Bush, V. (1948). As we may think. *The Atlantic Monthly*, July, 101–108. Available: <http://www.ps.uni-sb.de/~duchier/pub/vbush/vbush-all.shtml>

Lievrouw, L.A. and Livingstone, S. (2006, in press). Introduction to the Updated Student Edition. In *Handbook of New Media* (Updated Student Edition), pp. 1–14. London: Sage.

Moulthrop, S. (1991). You say you want a revolution? Hypertext and the laws of media. *Postmodern Culture*, 1(3), May. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Nelson, T.H. (1974). Excerpts from *Computer Lib/Dream Machines*. © 1974 Theodor H. Nelson. Available: <http://www.digibarn.com/collections/books/computer-lib/>

Nunberg, G. (1996). Farewell to the information age. In Geoffrey Nunberg (ed.), *The Future of the Book*, pp. 103–138. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. Available: <http://www-csli.stanford.edu/~nunberg/farewell.pdf>.

Viola, B. (1982). Will there be condominiums in data space? *Video*, 80(5), 36–41. Available: <http://www.cybergrain.com/remediality/viola.pdf>.

**See course website for additional suggested readings**

<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Nov 8, 9</b>	<b>Information Equity, Access and Power</b>
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Castells, M. (2002). The geography of the Internet: Networked places. In *The Internet Galaxy: Reflections on the Internet, Business, and Society*, pp. 207–246. London and New York: Oxford University Press.

Critical Art Ensemble (1994). Chapter 2: Nomadic power and cultural resistance. In *The Electronic Disturbance*, pp. 11–30. New York: Autonomedia. Available: <http://www.critical-art.net/books/ted/>

Holderness, M. (1998). Who are the world's information-poor? In B.D. Loader (Ed.), *Cyberspace Divide: Equality, Agency and Policy in the Information Society*, pp. 35–56. London: Routledge. Available: <http://www.poptel.org.uk/nuj/mike/cyberdiv.htm>

Lievrouw, L.A. (1994). Information resources and democracy: Understanding the paradox. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, 45(6), July, 350–357. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Lievrouw, L.A. and Farb, S.E. (2003). Information and social equity. In B. Cronin and D. Shaw (Eds.), *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology*, vol. 37, pp. 499–540. Medford, NJ: Information Today, for the American Society for Information Science and Technology.

**See course website for additional suggested readings**

<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Nov 15, 16</b>	<b>Intellectual Freedom, Surveillance and Security</b>
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Agre, P.E. (1994). Surveillance and capture: Two models of privacy. *The Information Society*, 10(2), 101–127.

Blanchette, J.-F. and Johnson, D.G. (2002). Data retention and the panoptic society: The social benefits of forgetfulness. *The Information Society*, 18, 33–45. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Cohen, Julie E. (2003). DRM and privacy. *Berkeley Technology Law Journal*, 18(2), Spring, 575–617. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Nissenbaum, H. (1998). Protecting privacy in an information age: The problem of privacy in public. *Law and Philosophy*, 17(5–6), November, 559–596. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Stallman, R. (1997). The right to read. *Communications of the ACM*, 40(2), 85–87. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

**See course website for additional suggested readings**

<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Nov 22 [Nov 30]</b>	<b>Intellectual Property and the Information Commons</b>
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Hunter, Dan (2003). Cyberspace as place and the tragedy of the digital anticommons. *California Law Review*, 91, 439.

Lievrouw, L.A. (2001). The anti-commons and other tragedies. *ICA Newsletter*, 29(7), 9-10, 22.

Lipinski, T.A. (1999). The commodification of information and the extension of proprietary rights into the public domain: Recent legal (case and other) developments in the United States. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 22(1), 63-80. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Litman, J. (2001). *Digital Copyright*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books. Chapter 2, "The art of making copyright laws." Available: <http://www.digital-copyright.com/>.

Stallman, R. (1985). The GNU Manifesto. *Dr. Dobb's Journal*, 10(3), 30. Available: <http://www.gnu.org/gnu/manifesto.html>

U.S. Copyright Office (2000, September). *Circular 1: Copyright Basics*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. Available: <http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ1.html>.

**See course website for additional suggested readings**

<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Nov 29 [Dec 7]</b>	<b>Information Institutions, Work, Professions</b>
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Agre, P.E. (1995). Institutional circuitry: Thinking about the forms and uses of information. *Information Technology and Libraries*, 14(4), December, 225-230. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Nunberg, G. (Nov/Dec 1999). Will libraries survive? *The American Prospect*, 9(41), 16-23. Available: <http://www.prospect.org/web/view-print.ww?id=4634>

O'Toole, J.M. (1990). The history of archives and the archives profession. In *Understanding Archives and Manuscripts*, pp. 27-47. Chicago, IL: Society of American Archivists.

Schement, J.R. and Lievrouw, L.A. (1984). A behavioural measure of information work. *Telecommunications Policy*, 8(4), December, 321-334. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

Schement, J.R., Lievrouw, L.A. and Dordick, H.S. (1983). The information society in California: social factors influencing its emergence. *Telecommunications Policy*, 7(1), March, 64-72. Available online through UCLA library catalog.

**See course website for additional suggested readings**

<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Dec 6 [Dec 14]</b>	<b>Information and Cultural Heritage</b>
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**Video: "Into the Future"**

Gilliland-Swetland, A.J. (2000). *Enduring Paradigm, New Opportunities: The Value of the Archival Perspective in the Digital Environment*. Washington, DC: Council on Library and Information Resources. <http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub89/contents.html>

Lievrouw, L.A. (2000). 'Dead media' and the loss of electronic cultural heritage. *ICA Newsletter*, January, 12-13.

Research Libraries Group, and Council on Library and Information Resources, Commission on Preservation and Access (1996). *Preserving Digital Information*. Available: <http://www.rlg.org/legacy/ftpd/pub/archtf/final-report.pdf>

Rothenberg, J. (1995). Ensuring the longevity of digital documents. *Scientific American*, 272(1), 24-29.

Rothenberg, J. (1998). *Avoiding Technological Quicksand: Finding a Viable Technological Foundation for Digital Preservation*. Washington, DC: Council on Library and Information Resources, Commission on Preservation and Access. Available: <http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/rothenberg/contents.html>

<b>EXAM WEEK</b>	<b>Dec 15</b>
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<b>Dec 15</b>
<b>TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMS DUE ONLINE</b>
<b>(BOTH SECTIONS)</b>