

Class Time & Location

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:45-11:00 am

Course Overview & Objectives

This course surveys human information interactions through a broad examination of the development of information science literature over time. Students examine cognitive, affective, social, and organizational/institutional approaches to understanding interactions between people and information. During the class, we will place special emphasis on the role of information professionals and information systems as mediators. I encourage students in this course to apply theories and concepts to analysis of current events and issues, and to apply concepts, models and theories to their own information practice.

Course Objectives

Students successfully completing this course will:

- become familiar with empirical and theoretical literature related to information seeking, including the recognition of information needs, actions taken to resolve those needs, the roles of intermediaries (both human and machine), and the retrieval and use of information;
- understand key concepts related to the effects, influences, and impacts of information on people (individually and in groups);
- develop skills in reading, writing, and discussing information science concepts, models, frameworks, and theories;
- critically apply theories and empirical findings to the definition and solution of problems related to human information interactions.

Teaching Philosophy

Although this is a survey course, this class is not intended to be a “slow” introduction to information science theory or to “ease you into” graduate school. The readings cover a broad range of information science theory (which may be different from readings you have done previously). Developing an understanding of theory may be a difficult process for some students, but I fully expect you to take responsibility for your part in the co-creation of your learning experience. Additionally, this is not a lecture-heavy course. Most of your learning will be done via readings and discussions with your peers. As the professor, I will provide you with appropriate materials and supports, and answer your questions. I will guide your exploration as you consider the implications of these concepts and theories for your practice. I repeat – the bulk of your inquiry will be done in conjunction with your classmates. This class is a space in which I expect brave (but respectful) exploration of issues – a space to ask big (and little) questions, to work through messy concepts, and to think about how they apply to your own practice of information science. Read! Ask! Participate! Personalize! Let’s make the semester a dynamic one!

Instructor Information

Contact Information

Email: angibson@unc.edu

Personal Websites: <https://sils.unc.edu/people/faculty/profiles/Amelia-Gibson> ; <http://ameliagibson.com/> ;

Community Equity, Data & Information Lab: <https://cedi.unc.edu/>

Office Hours

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11 am-noon

Office hours are first come, first serve, open to all students in my classes (including doctoral students and non-SILS advisees and mentees) and are a great place to bring group questions.

If you need one on one assistance, or have more individual questions, you may make a 15 minute or 30 minute appointment with me using Calendly (<https://calendly.com/angibson>). My available hours for one on one appointments are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 4 and 5 pm.

I am a responsible employee

Please note that as advisor to Flourish, I am a responsible employee and must disclose incidents of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, interpersonal violence, or stalking to a staff member in the UNC Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office. ***This means I cannot keep such incidents confidential if they are disclosed to me.***

Find more information about responsible employees here: <https://safe.unc.edu/learn-more/responsible-employees/>

Resources for Students

Counseling and Psychological Services

CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short or long-term needs. Go to their website: <https://caps.unc.edu/> or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Services building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more. (source: Student Safety and Wellness Proposal for EPC, Sep 2018)

Accessibility Resources and Service Office

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities.

All accommodations are coordinated through the Accessibility Resources and Service Office. See the ARS Website for contact information: <https://ars.unc.edu> or email ars@unc.edu.

If you need an accommodation but have not yet gone through the steps it takes to establish a formal relationship with University ARS, please let me know, and I will do my best to accommodate your needs.

Relevant policy documents as they relation to registration and accommodations determinations and the student registration form are available on the [ARS website under the About ARS tab](#).

Course Materials

No textbook is required. Students will be expected to complete readings in preparation for each class meeting. The assigned readings are listed on the course schedule and will be made available electronically, through the UNC libraries, e-reserves, or the Sakai site for the course.

Student Conduct

Respect for All Persons

Respectful engagement is an expectation of this course. We will discuss ground rules for engagement in class. While I expect robust discussion, disrespect for colleagues and/or the instructor will not be tolerated. Additionally, class time will not be spent debating the right of any person to exist.

Honor Code

The Honor Code, which prohibits giving or receiving unauthorized aid in the completion of assignments and exams is in effect in this class. Whenever you use the words or ideas of others, they should be properly marked as a quotation (and referenced) or the source of the ideas should be cited. APA citation format is required for assignments in this class. Please contact the instructor if you have any questions about the application of the Honor Code to your work in this class. You can learn more about the UNC Honor Code at <https://studentconduct.unc.edu/> and about the Instrument of Student Governance at <https://studentconduct.unc.edu/sites/studentconduct.unc.edu/files/documents/Instrument.pdf>. I also expect that students will give proper credit to other researchers through proper use of citation. APA citation style will be used for this course.

Community Standards in Our Course and Mask Use

This fall semester, while we are in the midst of a global pandemic, all enrolled students are required to wear a mask covering your mouth and nose at all times in on campus classrooms and other spaces. This requirement is to protect our educational community — your classmates and me – as we learn together. If you choose not to wear a mask in on campus spaces, your instructor may ask you to leave immediately, and submit a report to the [Office of Student Conduct](#). At that point you will be disenrolled from this course for the protection of our educational community. Students who have an authorized accommodation from Accessibility Resources and Service have an exception. For additional information, see [Carolina Together](#).

Syllabus Changes

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates. These changes will be announced as early as possible. (source: http://faccoun.unc.edu/files/2011/03/Res-2012-11OnSyllabusGuidelines_v4FinalAsApproved.pdf)