Fall 2017
INSC 520-Sec002: Information Representation and Organization
The School of Information Sciences
The University of Tennessee
Class Meetings: Monday, 6:30-9:10 on ZOOM;
ZOOM Course ID/Link: https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/921597635

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3pm, or by appointment
xzhu12@utk.edu (best choice for contact)
865.974.5390

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog description: The structure and organization of intellectual content regardless of format. Emphasis on how content is created, exchanged, and stored so it can be found. Includes standards and best practice for describing and characterizing intellectual content. Required Course.

This course is an introduction to the basic principles underlying information representation and organization in libraries and other information agencies with the belief that knowing about information representation and organization will provide a strong foundation for understanding how information retrieval systems function to bring information and users together. Topics will include information environments and retrieval tools, approaches to describing subject content, including classification and controlled vocabularies, and issues and practices for description and the choice of access points, including authority control. Students will be introduced to current and future standards for descriptive practice, including metadata standards

II. STUDENT OUTCOMES:

Students who complete this course will be capable of:

- Identifying the variety of descriptive practice and retrieval tools used in diverse information communities
- Demonstrating knowledge about theories concerning categorization, subject vocabularies, and classification
- Understanding descriptive practices used in libraries and other information institutions, including emerging trends in metadata standards
- Showing familiarity with the tools and systems used to create and use descriptive records for libraries, both now and in the past

III. COURSE DESIGN

The course adopts an active learning approach. Students are required to complete all required readings, attend all class lectures, complete graded activities and assignments, and participate in all class activities, including teacher-led and student-led discussions, and small-group and individual activities. All required readings are listed in the Course Schedule section of this syllabus. Optional readings are also provided. While not required, you may find it helpful to consult these optional readings when completing select assignments.
IV. Required Texts:

Recommended Texts:

Style handbook of your choice (APA or Chicago Manual of Style).

Readings on Canvas:
In addition to the required textbook, we have some class readings available on the Canvas course site, downloadable from each class module. Your computer must have Adobe Acrobat or a comparable pdf reader installed.

V. Policies

Communication
I encourage you to ask questions and give me feedback at any time so that I may assist you or adjust my teaching plan. The best way to reach me is by email (xzhu12@utk.edu). You are welcome to make appointments and meet with me in person or chat with me via Zoom (6086585155).

I am required to communicate with you through your UTK email address. If you prefer to use another address, consult the OIT Helpdesk to obtain directions for forwarding your UTK mail to your preferred address if you don’t wish to check both accounts.

Computing Requirements
You must have adequate computing skills, including but not limited to use of word processing, Web browsers, e-mail, listservs, Canvas, and Zoom software. You must learn how to submit your assignments using Canvas. The Office of Information Technology (OIT) provides training classes in using varied technologies for students at no charge (advance registration is required).

You must obtain a UT email account and subscribe to the SIS student listserv. In addition, you must have the PowerPoint Reader or the regular PowerPoint software installed on your computer in order to download the lecture notes from Canvas.

Class Attendance Policy
It is assumed that each student be present and speak in class -- the equivalent of a "B" grade for "participation." Missing more classes or failing to participate will lower your grade; frequent participation will raise the grade.

Regular attendance is required and necessary. A substantial portion of your grade will be based on in-class work and participation. Unexplained absences will affect your grade; there will be a penalty of three (3) points for each class you miss without acceptable reasons. Contact me as soon as possible if you cannot attend class. If you will be absent from class, you must:

- Inform me in advance or as soon as possible after class
- Submit any work due from the missed class period
- Listen to class recording
- Obtain notes, handouts, etc. from Canvas
• Check with classmates for notes, announcements, etc.

**Acceptable reasons for absence from class include:**

• Illness
• Serious family emergencies,
• Special curricular or job requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences),
• Military obligation,
• Severe weather conditions,
• Religious holidays
• Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
• Obligations for court imposed legal obligations (i.e., jury duty, subpoena)

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

“The chancellor (or appointed representative) may officially close or suspend selected activities of the university because of extreme weather conditions. When a decision to close is made, information is distributed to the campus community, shared with local media, and posted on the front page at [http://utk.edu](http://utk.edu).” ([http://safety.utk.edu/emergency-management/inclement-weather-policy/](http://safety.utk.edu/emergency-management/inclement-weather-policy/)). SIS will cancel classes when UT is closed. Please check the SIS student listserv ([UTKSIS-L@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU](mailto:UTKSIS-L@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU)) for messages about closing.

**DISABILITIES THAT CONSTRAIN LEARNING**

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 865-974-6087 in 100 Dunford Hall to document their eligibility for services. ODS will work with students and faculty to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**CIVILITY**

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other’s well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: [http://civility.utk.edu/](http://civility.utk.edu/).

**CCI DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

The College of Communication and Information recognizes that a college diverse in its people, curricula, scholarship, research, and creative activities expands opportunities for intellectual inquiry and engagement, helps students develop critical thinking skills, and prepares students for social and civic responsibilities. All members of the College benefit from diversity and the quality of learning, research, scholarship and creative activities is enhanced by a climate of inclusion, understanding and appreciation of differences and the full range of human experience. As a result, the College is committed to diversity and equal opportunity and it recognizes that it must represent the diversity inherent in American society. The College is acutely aware that diversity and fairness are foundations that unite the College’s faculty, staff, students, and the larger communication and information community.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students should be familiar and maintain their Academic Integrity described in http://hilltopics.utk.edu/academics/ as: “Study, preparation and presentation should involve at all times the student’s own work, unless it has been clearly specified that work is to be a team effort. Academic honesty requires that the student present his or her own work in all academic projects, including tests, papers, homework, and class presentation. When incorporating the work of other scholars and writers into a project, the student must accurately cite the source of that work.”

Students should abide by the Honor Statement described in the same Hilltopics, http://hilltopics.utk.edu/academics/:

“An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism in any of its several forms is intolerable, and attention to matters of documentation in all written work is expected and required. Inadvertence, alleged lack of understanding, or avowed ignorance of the various types of plagiarism are not acceptable excuses.

Specific examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying without proper documentation (quotation marks and a citation) written or spoken words, phrases, or sentences from any source;
- Summarizing without proper documentation (usually a citation) ideas from another source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
- Borrowing facts, statistics, graphs, pictorial representations, or phrases without acknowledging the source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
- Collaborating on a graded assignment without the instructor’s approval;
- Submitting work, either in whole or in part, created by a professional service and used without attribution (e.g., paper, speech, bibliography, or photograph).

Students who may be unsure of the nature of plagiarism should consult the instructor or a guide for writing research reports. Additional resources are available at http://www.lib.utk.edu/instruction/plagiarism.

Infractions of academic integrity are penalized according to the severity of the infraction but may include a course grade of "F."

GROUP WORK POLICY:

The assignments are to be completed by group. Each group consists of 3-4 students self-selected by you. If you do not self-select your group members by the middle of the second week of class, the instructor will randomly assign you to a group. Each group will remain the same for all the assignments during the semester and under usual circumstances changing groups is not possible. If the situation does arise where it is impossible for you to work in your group, then you will have to negotiate with other group members to warrant an exchange. If there are complaints from group members about a lack of professionalism (e.g., poor or untimely communication and inadequate contribution) and unreasonable behavior from one group member then disciplinary action will be taken against the person about which the complaint is being made.
For example, if a group member does not respond to group communication in 48 hours or misses a group meeting without reasonable plans/measures to make up for the absence, the group may work on the assignment without this member. This member will be given a chance to finish the assignment on his/her own, if s/he explains the situation to the instructor and asks for a makeup opportunity (at least three days before the due date). However, two points will be automatically deducted from the grade if the assignment is finished individually. For each assignment, each student must submit a brief statement about how each group member has contributed to the work. The final grade for each student will depend partly on the contribution. If there are problems in the group, do not wait until the end to tackle the matter: address, negotiate, and resolve the problem right away.

VI. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Student work is assigned a grade based on quality of thought and writing style, thoroughness of research and of references, appropriateness of length, and originality. Only exceptional work will receive an "A" grade. Papers that are received after the due date will be assigned a lower grade than would otherwise be received. All sources must be cited, quotations must be in quotation marks and attributed correctly. Not doing so constitutes plagiarism.

PREPARATION OF WRITTEN WORK

- All assignments must include all group member names, be in .docx format, letter size, with an 11 or 12-point font and 1” margins on all sides, use single line spacing and reasonable paragraph spacing (0-12 pt), include page numbers. Assignments that do not follow the writing style requirements will get a deduction of two points.
- Name all assignment documents following the file name designation specified in section VII.
- Use either APA or Turabian/CMS documentation styles when you cite sources. All sources must be properly cited, quotations must be formatted and attributed correctly. Not doing so constitutes plagiarism.

DUE DATES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments should be submitted to the “assignments” area of Canvas and are due (officially) at 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date listed on the syllabus. If your assignment is not ready by the deadline...

- You must send me an email informing me that your assignment will be late.
- After submitting your assignment to Canvas, send me an email informing me that your assignment has been submitted.
- One point will be deducted for each 24-hour hour period the assignment is not turned in.
- Late submissions will not be credited if the graded assignments have already been returned to the rest of the class.

INCOMPLETES

Based on adopted University of Tennessee-Knoxville and SIS policy, a grade of I (Incomplete) is reserved for emergencies that prevent the student from completing the course on time. Incompletes are granted only under “the most unusual of circumstances” and solely at the discretion of the instructor. Plan your semester’s course of study carefully to insure sufficient time to complete the required work.

For students who simply “disappear” without contacting the instructor and without completing the required form, an "F" is submitted.
ASSIGNING GRADES

Please note that I do not assign letter grades for individual assignments, but will mark your paper with my comments and provide a point score based on the possible points earned for that assignment. If you'd like to compute a letter grade based on the score provided, divide your score by the total points possible for the assignment and refer to the scale on pp. 5-6 of the syllabus for the corresponding letter grade. For example, if you earned 23/25 points on an assignment, your percentage grade would be 92. Your final grade will be based on total points earned/total possible points over the course of the semester.

GRADING DISPUTE

Grading by its very nature is a subjective process, and it is virtually impossible to design exercises that can be objectively quantified with precise numeric scores. If you need clarification for the grade you receive, please make your request immediately after the distribution of the assignments; after one week, the grades reported to you are final.

EVALUATION

G grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥93</td>
<td>(4 quality points per semester hour) superior performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.75</td>
<td>(3.7 quality points per semester credit hour) intermediate grade performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89.75</td>
<td>(3.5 quality points per semester hour) better than satisfactory performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87.75</td>
<td>(3 quality points per semester hour) satisfactory performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.75</td>
<td>(2.7 quality points per semester credit hour) intermediate grade performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79.75</td>
<td>(2.5 quality points per semester hour) less than satisfactory performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-77.75</td>
<td>(2 quality points per semester hour) performance well below the standard expected of graduate students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.75</td>
<td>(1 quality point per semester hour) clearly unsatisfactory performance and cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤59.75</td>
<td>(no quality points) extremely unsatisfactory performance and cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td></td>
<td>(no quality points) a temporary grade indicating that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course but, due to unforeseen circumstances, has been unable to finish all requirements. An I is not given to enable a student to do additional work to raise a deficient grade. The instructor, in consultation with the student, decides the terms for the removal of the I, including the time limit for removal. If the I is not removed within one calendar year, the grade will be changed to an F. The course will not be counted in the cumulative grade point average until a final grade is assigned. No student may graduate with an I on the record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/NC</td>
<td></td>
<td>(carries credit hours, but no quality points) S is equivalent to a grade of B or better, and NC means no credit earned. A grade of Satisfactory/No Credit is allowed only where indicated in the course description in the Graduate Catalog. The number of Satisfactory/No Credit courses in a student's program is limited to one-fourth of the total credit hours required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P/NP</td>
<td></td>
<td>(carries credit hours, but no quality points) P indicates progress toward completion of a thesis or dissertation. NP indicates no progress or inadequate progress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td>(carries no credit hours or quality points) indicates that the student officially withdrew from the course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE EVALUATION

You will be invited to evaluate the course at the end of the term. Please participate in this valuable process. I also invite your comments throughout the course and read all comments, suggestions, and recommendations.
VII. ASSIGNMENTS: DESCRIPTION

This table provides a brief summary of assignment names, due dates, and grade distribution. A fuller description of each assignment follows the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation [Individual]</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Contributions [Individual]</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Various, see course schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Assignments [Group]</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Various, see course schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Essays [Individual]</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12/10 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PARTICIPATION (10%)

Much of the course material will be presented in the readings and discussions. You are expected to do the reading assigned for class and come to class prepared to offer your opinions and insights. To participate in class you must be in attendance, so being present (physically and mentally) is pretty important.

CONTRIBUTIONS ON DISCUSSION BOARD (20%)

You are expected to participate in online discussions on class materials via the Canvas class site. Make sure that you post in the correct place based on the guidelines specified on Canvas. Posting in the wrong place may lead to no credit for that task. Also make sure you post before the deadline and that the word count expectation is met, otherwise the post will not be counted for your grade. I suggest that you type in a Word document first then copy and paste the content to the discussion board.

1. On the designated class discussion board, post one electronic message by the deadline specified in the course schedule, sharing new material on a certain class topic with a review (in your own words) of the material you share. The new material can include articles from reputed journals, content on websites from authoritative sources, professional description of information resources, current news items on information organization concepts, etc. Your review should be at least 400 words without counting the bibliographic information and may include discussion of the material posted, reflections on the material posted, strengths and/or weaknesses of the material, relevance of the material to the class topics and/or profession, etc. You are welcome to share more than one new material, but at least one of them must meet the requirements described above. (5 points)

2. On the designated class discussion board, make one response to one of the new materials posted by other students. Your response should be at least 400 words and may include your reactions to the shared materials, pros/cons to arguments presented, etc. Your response should be substantial—make your own arguments, clarify your rationale, and provide critical insights. The due date/time is specified on the course schedule available on the Bb course site. You are welcome to make more comments, but at least one of them must meet the requirements described above. (5 points)

3. If we have asynchronous class sessions, on the discussion board dedicated to asynchronous class sessions, post AT LEAST THREE reactions/questions/comments during the week of the class. You may start a new discussion topic (thread), or participate in the threads other students have started.
There is no word count requirement, but you should elaborate your points. (0-5 points)

4. During class sessions (including asynchronous ones), the instructor may ask you to discuss specific topics on the discussion forum. Deadlines will be announced in class. (5-10 points)

The instructor will not give separate comments on each post. Grading will be based on whether the posts meet the described expectations (e.g., length, substantiality, and meeting deadlines). The purpose of this assignment is to promote information exchanges, develop expertise, and build a community of sharing amongst the student body.

**GROUP ASSIGNMENTS (50%)**

There are four assignments that must be submitted before a specific date/time via Canvas. Each assignment will be available about two weeks before its due date. It is to your advantage to start as soon as possible so you will have opportunities to revise your responses before the due date. Late submission is subject to point deduction (1 point per day) and will not be given any credit if the graded assignments have been returned to the rest of the class. Mark your calendars for due dates.

- See “Group Work Policy” above.
- For each assignment, each student must submit a brief statement about how each group member has contributed to the work.

File naming: GroupNumber_Ex#, e.g., Group1_Ex1

**FINAL ESSAYS (20%)**

The essays are open-book exams, comprising of a combination of demonstrating expertise in a knowledge area and addressing a comprehensive examination-type question. Each relate to different exit requirements for the program and prepare you for both the ePortfolio and comprehensive examination options as well as meet learning outcomes of the course. For part 1 of the final essays, you will articulate and synthesize one of three essential concepts and/or theories fundamental to 520. For part 2 of the final essays, you will be given a question as appear on comprehensive examination. Questions reflect broad educational experiences and require students to integrate knowledge gained from 520.

The essays have to be completed individually by each student separately without consulting other students in the class. You will have a few days to complete the essays. No excuses for late essay will be accepted unless there is a health-related emergency for which written proof will be required. Make sure your network connection and technology are working to complete and submit your essay on time.

File naming: Lastname_essays, e.g., JohnSmith_essays

**VII. COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Responsibilities/n.b.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Required:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 8/28</td>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Taylor &amp; Joudrey Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2) TDO Chapter 1 (pages 25-52, skip 1.10)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LABOR DAY</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UNIT 2: METADATA DEFINITIONS</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Required:</strong></td>
<td>Group sign up by Wednesday, 9/6, via email</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 9/11</td>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Taylor &amp; Joudrey Chapter 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2) TDO Chapter section 3.3</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

520 Syllabus V1. 08-17-17
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Responsibilities/n.b.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNIT</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Required:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2) TDO Chapter 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recommended:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1) TDO Chapter 4</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Required:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1) TDO Chapter 9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Required:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Chu Chapter 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2) Taylor &amp; Joudrey Chapter 5 and Chapter 7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Required:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Required:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recommended:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Required:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Chu Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2) Taylor &amp; Joudrey Chapter 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assignment 1 Due Wednesday, 10/4, 11:59pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIT</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Responsibilities/n.b.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **UNIT 7** Guest Lecture or Review Session (TBA) | 8 10/16 | Review readings from previous weeks  
**Required:**  
(1) TDO Chapter 3 | Assignment 2 Due Wednesday, 10/18, 11:59pm |
| **UNIT 8:** Authority Control | 9 10/23 | **Required:**  
(1) Taylor & Joudrey Chapter 8  
(2) TDO Chapter section 4.4 | Canvas Discussion Post Due Wednesday, 10/25, 11:59pm: Sharing New Materials |
| **UNIT 9:** Subject Access and Vocabulary Control | 10 10/30 | **Required:**  
(1) Taylor & Joudrey Chapter 9 and Chapter 10  
**Recommended:**  
(2) Revisit TDO Chapter section 9.2.3.2 | |
| **UNIT 10:** Subject Access: Indexing and Abstracting | 11 11/6 | **Required:**  
(2) Chu Chapter 2  
**Recommended:**  
| **UNIT 11:** Classification and Categorization | 12 11/13 | **Required:**  
(2) Taylor & Joudrey Chapter 11  
**Recommended:**  
(1) TDO Chapter 7 and TDO Chapter 8  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Responsibilities/n.b.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| UNIT 12: INDEXING OF NON-TEXTUAL MATERIAL | 13 11/20 | **Required:**  
(1) Chu Chapter 4 and Chu Chapter 9  
(2) Revisit TDO Chapter section 5.4 "Describing Non-text Resources" p.277-282  
**Recommended:**  
| UNIT 13: TAXONOMY, ONTOLOGY, SEMANTIC WEB | 14 11/27 | **Required:**  
(1) TDO Chapter 6  
**Recommended:**  
(1) Revisit TDO Chapter section 9.4.3  
| UNIT 14: SYSTEM DESIGN; INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM, COURSE WRAP UP | 15 12/4 | **Required:**  
(1) Taylor & Joudrey Chapter 6  
(2) TDO Chapter 11  
**Recommended:**  
(3) TDO Chapter 10 | Final Essays: Start Tuesday 12/5, 2pm; Due Sunday 12/10, 11:59pm |

**DISCLAIMER**

Please be aware revisions may be made to this syllabus and schedule over the course of the semester, and as such, the content contained within may be subject to change.