

**INSC 535 - Advanced Information Retrieval
Spring 2016
Syllabus**

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| Day & Time: | Wednesdays, 6:30 – 9:10 (ET) |
| Place: | Online via Zoom and Blackboard https://online.utk.edu |
| Instructor: | Margaret Casado casado@utk.edu 865.974.0087 Office Hours: by appointment |
| Graduate Assistant: | Erika Long elong5@vols.utk.edu |

Course (Catalog) Description: Bibliographic, non-bibliographic, full-text databases, e.g., non-bibliographic formula and structure databases, contents-page/full-text databases, patents; document delivery alternatives, evaluation, and testing. Prerequisite: 530

Course Goals and Objectives:

1. Explore trends and major issues in information retrieval
2. Develop a better understanding of online systems and databases
3. Learn various methods of evaluation of online systems and databases
4. Practice query languages of several commercially available online systems
5. Develop advanced skills in search strategy formulation and become proficient as professional searchers

Methodology: A combination of lecture, discussion, and hands-on activities, including database searching. Students will learn about various online systems and will be expected to spend time outside of class searching and comparing systems. Students will also read and be prepared to discuss assigned readings.

Text: Markey, Karen. **Online Searching**. Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.

Optional texts: (Excellent information but out-of-date)

Walker, Geraldene and Joseph Janes. **Online Retrieval: A dialogue of theory and practice, 2nd edition**. Libraries Unlimited, 1999. Edited by Carol Tenopir.

Jacso, Peter. ***Content Evaluation of CD-ROM and Web Databases.***
Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2001.

Bell, Suzanne. ***Librarian's Guide to Online Searching, 3rd edition.***
Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2012.

Readings: Readings outside of the textbook will be assigned and will be available in Blackboard.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class synchronously and participate in discussions. Class discussions and activities are a vital part of learning and thus a part of your grade. You are responsible for any information covered, whether you attend class or not.

Grading scale:

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| A | 93 – 100 | Superior |
| B+ | 85 – 92 | Better than satisfactory |
| B | 80 – 84 | Satisfactory |
| C+ | 75 – 79 | Less than satisfactory |
| C | 70 – 74 | Well below standard expected of graduate students |
| D | 60 – 60 | Clearly unsatisfactory |
| F | 0 – 59 | Extremely unsatisfactory |

Incomplete: An incomplete will be granted only under special circumstances and only if a substantial amount of the coursework has already been successfully completed. There is a form to request an Incomplete:

<http://www.sis.utk.edu/sites/default/files/docs/incompleterequest.pdf>

From the Registrar's Office:

<http://onestop.utk.edu/your-grades/whats-my-gpa/other-letter-grades/>

This indicates that you didn't complete all the work in a course. Under extraordinary circumstances and at the instructor's discretion, an I gives you the opportunity to complete the work after the term is finished. If you receive an I instead of a grade, university regulations allow one calendar year after the term is over for you to complete the work. If you don't complete the work by the end of that year, the I will convert to an F. If you receive an I, it's your responsibility to contact the instructor and find out what work remains to complete the course. Do not register in the class again because the I will convert to an F.

Academic Integrity:

Sources:

Hilltopics (<http://dos.utk.edu/files/Hilltopics2013-2014.pdf>) 2013-2014

The Graduate Catalog (<http://catalog.utk.edu/index.php>) 2013-2014

<http://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=1473#Plagiarism>

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. (See Standards of Conduct Honor Statement. Additional resources are available at <http://libguides.utk.edu/content.php?pid=134221&sid=2574277>)

Academic Honesty

http://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=1473#Academic_Honesty

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all members of the academic community. An honor statement is included on the online application for admission and readmission. Submitting the application acknowledges that adherence is confirmed. The honor statement declares:

“An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 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

Students shall not plagiarize. Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of someone else's words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is a serious offense subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in a course and/or dismissal from the university. Some examples of plagiarism are

- Using 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).
- Submitting work, either in whole or in part, created by a professional service and used without attribution (e.g., paper, speech, bibliography, or photograph).

Extreme caution should be exercised by students involved in collaborative research to avoid questions of plagiarism. If in doubt, students should check with the major professor and the Dean of the Graduate School

about the project. Plagiarism will be investigated when suspected and prosecuted if established.

Citation help:

<http://libguides.utk.edu/content.php?pid=134221&sid=1833543>

See also:

http://studentconduct.utk.edu/students_current_dishonesty.php

Policy on inclement weather: Arrangements will be announced via Blackboard and email. Since we have an online class, there are other situations besides snow and ice that may complicate our class times. Hang loose and check your email often (if you can).

School policy: <http://www.sis.utk.edu/courses/guidelines>

See also: <http://safety.utk.edu/emergency-management/inclement-weather-policy/>

Disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services 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.

Statement on diversity: The College of Communication and Information recognizes and values diversity. Exposing students to diverse people, ideas and cultures increases opportunities for intellectual inquiry, encourages critical thinking, and enhances communication and information competence. When all viewpoints are heard, thoughtfully considered, and respectfully responded to, everyone benefits. Diversity and fairness unite us with the wider professional and global community

Assignments:

Submit assignments as Word documents by 5 p.m. on the due date using Blackboard. Late papers will have points deducted.

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| 1. Labs | Various due dates, as assigned | 20% |
| 2. Database review | Due: February 3 | 15% |
| 3. System comparison | Due: February 24 | 15% |
| 4. Presentation | Due: April 20 | 15% |
| 5. Issues paper | Due: April 27 | 20% |
| 6. Participation | | 15% |