INSC 505 Capstone for Career Success: Designing an Effective ePortfolio

Instructor: Peiling Wang, Ph.D.
Semester: Spring 2018
Class held: Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. at https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/437466490
Or, go to https://tennessee.zoom.us/join; meeting ID: 437 466 490
Office: 443 Communications Building; voice mail: (865) 974-3700
Hours: by appointment
Email: peilingw@utk.edu

Course Description

To build an environment for capstone learning experiences. To integrate core knowledge of information science and related fields to build a strong knowledge base. To develop necessary IT skills for ePortfolios. To showcase learning outcomes and professional growth. To identify and foster competences for career success.

Goals/Objectives

This course is a required elective for SIS students choosing the ePortfolio option as the Master’s degree exit requirement. The course objectives include:

- To investigate the challenges facing 21st century information professionals
- To understand the importance of lifelong learning
- To foster reflective learning skills
- To understand the major ePortfolio models and their perspectives
- To be able to integrate and apply knowledge to real world problems
- To develop competences/skills relevant to aimed career paths
- To demonstrate the ability of self-learning and self-assessment of milestones
- To understand collaborative learning and practice peer-evaluation process
- To design an ePortfolio prototype using WordPress

Methods of Teaching/Learning

This course takes a constructivist approach to learning. That is, the course will be centered on both your learning objectives and your career goals. To better understand the increasingly complex and dynamic environment of the 21st century, we will survey the employment trends and competencies for various information career paths. To better prepare ourselves for the new
challenges facing today’s information professionals, we will focus on critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, communication, and collaboration in addition to integrating core knowledge of the field and demonstrating professional competencies. We will also develop career-seeking skills and strategies.

Upon successful completion of the course, you will produce a prototype ePortfolio site that includes the required content elements and navigational structure. You will illustrate an integrative approach to showcase your knowledge and competences through analytical reflection of a product (a.k.a. artifact). You will be guided to select your ePortfolio advisor (a.k.a. major professor) and form your ePortfolio final oral examination (a.k.a. defense).

Technology requirements: Canvas courseware, which is accessible using your UT NetID and password at https://utk.instructure.com; Wordpress.com account; and Google Drive at drive.google.com. Course deliver combines synchronous class every week and asynchronous discussion and/or group interactions managed in Canvas course site

**Academic Integrity**

“The responsibility for learning is an individual matter. 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 all work presented be the student’s own work, not only on tests, but in themes, papers, homework, and class presentation. …” (Hilltopics -- Student Handbook, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; http://hilltopics.utk.edu/).

**Disability Statement**

“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 his or her eligibility for services. ODS will work with students and faculty to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.”

**Diversity Statement**

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.” (http://www.cci.utk.edu/diversity-statement)

**Policy on Inclement Weather**

If the UT Knoxville campus is officially closed, all classes will be canceled. You can be informed by the SIS listserv. You can also check the UT Knoxville campus number 865-974-
IT Problems

In case of Internet or Canvas issues, call OIT at 865-974-3117 or 1-877-974-3117 (toll free). After 8 p.m. weekdays and on weekends, contact the OIT helpdesk at 865-974-9900 or submit a ticket online at http://help.utk.edu.

Grading Scheme defined by The University of Tennessee for graduate level courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>superior performance</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>intermediate grade performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>very good performance</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>intermediate grade performance</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>less than satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>well below the standard expected of graduate students</td>
<td>D or F</td>
<td>cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements</td>
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Course Tasks

Attendance & Participation (10%)

Prepared attendance and participation in course activities are important to success in this course. If you miss in-class activities, contact me to arrange a make-up/catch-up session.

Assignments (90%)

Note: Due dates are listed on the Schedule and Canvas/Assignments. Several assignments will be made available before the classes cover the topics. This is to allow students to work around their schedules and plan ahead to meet deadlines. Extensions will be granted only in unforeseeable situations with supporting evidence.

1. Create ePortfolio Account (5)
2. Configure ePortfolio Site (10)
3. Write Career Statement, Learning Goals, & Action Plan (Journal) (10)
4. Design ePortfolio Site Structure & Navigation (10)
5. Develop a Work-in-Progress ePortfolio and Peer Feedback (15)
6. Write a WordPress Post to Analyze an Artifact to Integrate Knowledge & Demonstrate Competences (Journal) (10)
7. ePortfolio Prototype & Peer Review (15)
8. Finalize ePortfolio Site Prototype & Complete First Milestone (15)

Schedule:

See Canvas course site.