Beyond Google: An Introduction to Information Literacy

UNIV 1030

Section 90 (with Chris Neuhaus) - 3-3:50 p.m. - Monday & Wednesday in Library 324
Section 91 (Jim Kelly) – 3:30-4:20 p.m. - Tuesday & Thursday in Library 324
Section 92 (with Angie Cox) - 8:00-8:50 p.m. - Monday &-Wednesday in Library 324
Section 93 (with Angie Cox) - 8:00-8:50 p.m. - Tuesday &-Thursday in Library 324

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READINGS AND VIEWINGS

Each week will have What You Must Know units (your textbook) as well as reading and viewing options. Links to all of these are to be found on the course website – http://guides.lib.uni.edu/beyond-google

GOALS OF COURSE

Beyond Google is a voyage through the types and trends of information. We begin this course by taking a look at advanced techniques for Google, Google Scholar, and Google Books and continue our tour through the realms of Wikipedia, Books, News, and Research. Discussions, readings, and short videos will help us better understand the nature and relevance of each type of information. During this process we will examine some of the social, economic, ethical, legal and political issues associated with the use, abuse, and ownership of information.

In particular this course will address:

1. The need to understand the nature and relevance of each form of information
2. The need for mastery of information navigation within and between these formats
3. The need to understand the social, economic, ethical, legal, and political issues associated with the use, abuse, and ownership of traditional and new forms of information

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

Weeks 1 and 2  Google: Techniques, issues, alternatives and more forms of Google.
Week 3  Wikipedia and background information.
Week 4  Books (online and print). Books are your approved alternative to Wikipedia and your pathway to deeper understanding.
Week 5  News. How to quickly find the best and most useful news articles in a vast ocean of second-rate offerings.
Weeks 6 and 7  Research. How to find and read the dreaded scholarly article.
WHAT IS REQUIRED?

There are five required exercises in this course. They include:

- Required Practice from Week 1
- Plan for Success from Week 1
- Course Feedback from Week 4
- Code of Ethics from Week 6
- Advice for Future Students from Week 7

You must also score 30 points or more on the Quizzes for Weeks 1-7

- You may take a quiz as often as you like.
  
  Your highest score for a given quiz will be your official score.
  (e.g. if you took Quiz Week 4 six different times and got scores of 7, 18, 29, 38, 31, and 34 … your official score for Quiz Week 4 would be 38).

  You may also make an appointment to take an alternative pencil-and-paper version of a quiz and have up to 30 minutes to complete that quiz.
WHY YOU SHOULD PLAN TO SCORE ABOVE 30 ON QUIZZES AND COMPLETE THE REQUIRED EXERCISES.

In this course a score of 930 points = A

There are many ways to earn 930 or more points (see OTHER OPTIONS FOR EARNING POINTS on page 5).

In fact, if you earn more than 1000 points, and you have completed all the required exercises, and you have scored higher than 30 points on each of the Quizzes for Weeks 1-7, you can finish early (see FINISHING EARLY on page 11).

However, even if you have a score well above 1000 you will not receive an A if you have not completed the required exercises or if you have not earned a score of 30 or higher on each of the Quizzes for Weeks 1-7.

If you do not complete required assignments their point values will be subtracted from 930 (or if your final point total is less than 930 the point values of the incomplete required exercises will be subtracted from that total) and that will be your final grade.

Example 1. If your final point total is 989, but you failed to complete the Required Practice from Week 1 (worth 25 points) and the Code of Ethics exercise (worth 25 points) then your final grade would be

\[ 930 - 25 - 25 = 870 \] [B+]

Example 2. If your final point total is 732, but you failed to complete the Required Practice from Week 1 (worth 25 points), the Plan for Success from Week 1 (worth 20 points), and the Course Feedback from Week 4 (worth 10 points), then your final grade would be

\[ 732 - 25 - 20 - 10 = 677 \] [D+]

If you never score above 30 on some of your weekly quizzes the difference between 30 and your highest score will be subtracted from 930 (or if your point total is less than 930 the differences between 30 and your highest scores will be subtracted from that total) and that will be your final grade.

Example 3. If your final point total is 1056, but your best scores for the Quizzes from Weeks 1-7 were 42, 35, 31, 29, 18, 19, and 25, then your final grade would be

\[ 930 - 1 - 12 - 11 - 5 = 901 \] [A-]
OTHER OPTIONS FOR EARNING POINTS

1. **Practice.** Worksheets and treasure hunts to improve your skills.

2. **Read, Reflect, Cite.** Answer questions, provide a short reflection, and choose the correct APA citation for a variety of articles and videos.

3. **Essay Exercises.** Provide answers to questions from essays and videos on issues of information.

4. **What Do You Know?** Weekly quiz-like opportunities to add points.

5. **Class Participation.** Prepare for, regularly attend, and actively participate in class.

6. **In-Class Activities.** Additional points may be earned through in-class activities, guided discussions, puzzles, games, etc.

7. **Additional Points.** Points may also be earned by pointing out problems with the class website or by presenting the instructors and/or the class with new ideas and resources (e.g. really useful search engines, websites, or software not mentioned in class).
GRADES

Grades are established by earning points through any combination of the course options listed above.

The grading scale - listed on the next page - is based on points earned. Earn 730 points and you have a C. Earn 830 points and you have a B. Earn 930 points and you have an A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>930 – 1000</td>
<td>93.0 – 100 %</td>
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WHAT DO YOU KNOW? QUIZZES.  (All quizzes are cumulative).  

50 Possible Points

What Do You Know Quizzes. You can earn up to fifty points per week through your performance on a ten-question, ten-minute, quiz. When ten minutes are up the quiz is over.

You will be quizzed on material covered in the What You Must Know units found in eLearning and on the Beyond Google LibGuide - http://guides.lib.uni.edu/beyond-google.

Quizzes are cumulative so you will be tested over all the What You Must Know units covered by the time of the quiz.

Required. Everyone must score 30 points or higher on every quiz to qualify for an A.

You may take any quiz as often as you need to reach 30 points or an even higher score.

Pencil and paper quiz option. If you prefer you can make an appointment to take a quiz the old fashioned way - with pencil and paper. You will have up to a half-hour to take this type of quiz - and - you can take this type of quiz as often as you like.

Working Practice problems and studying the Quizlets will tend to improve your quiz scores as well as add more points to your point total.

PRACTICE

25-50 Possible Points

Questions, exercises, and mysteries to be solved that will allow you to practice your What You Must Know skills in preparation for the What Do You Know? quizzes. Each week you will have two 25 point Practice options.

Required. Everyone must attempt the Required Practice from week 1.
READ, REFLECT, CITE (Reflections/questions on readings/videos).  **15-120 Possible Points**

Write a short reflection on and answer questions about a wide variety of videos and articles. See the class website - [http://guides.lib.uni.edu/beyond-google](http://guides.lib.uni.edu/beyond-google) - for reading options and the eLearning course site for each quiz and reflection exercise that corresponds to each video or article. **Each Read, Reflect, Cite exercise is worth up to 15 points.**

**ESSAY EXERCISES** (Complete a set of questions as you read/watch).  **30-150 Possible Points**

Answer question sets from the eLearning course site as you read essays or watch videos on issues found on the class website - [http://guides.lib.uni.edu/beyond-google](http://guides.lib.uni.edu/beyond-google). You may try each Essay Exercise twice and your best score will be added to your point total.

**PARTICIPATION IN CLASS**  **20 or more Possible Points (per class)**

I expect you to be prepared every day for class by studying the *What You Must Know* units. Participation points are an incentive for you to be prepared for class and to play an active role in our learning community (class).

You can earn PARTICIPATION points as follows:

- **Show up on time** for class and participate actively throughout class points  **20**
  (10 points if not present for the entire class)

- **Notify me about problems, error, and typos.** Points to first responders who notice problems with the website (links, etc.).  **5 to 10**

**IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES**  **Possible Points will vary**

Additional points can be earned in class for:

- new and exceptional ideas (my call)
- puzzles
- contests
- exercises
ATTENDANCE POLICY

I must report absences for a variety of reasons and therefore will take attendance at the beginning of each class.

Since many of the options for earning points can be completed outside of class - it is possible to pass this class - and perhaps even earn a good grade - without regularly attending class. However it will be **much easier to pass this class and earn a good grade by attending class** and earning *Participation, What Do You Know*, and *In-Class Activities* points. *Participation* points cannot be made up after the fact (unless class is cancelled - see CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY).

CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY

The University may occasionally close class for a day or the start of classes may be delayed in response to bad weather. You should consult the UNI homepage for announcements. It is also possible that I might have to cancel a class because of illness or a doctor’s appointment. Should I have to cancel class, I will notify you in advance, by e-mail, whenever possible. For any cancelled class situation you will automatically receive 20 Participation points. If the cancelled class falls on a quiz day, that quiz will be moved to the following week.

COMMUNICATION (e-mail)

We will conduct a lot of class business via UNI e-mail. When I send you an e-mail I will place the letters BG (Beyond Google) at the beginning of the subject line. To be sure your e-mails to me - which might include your Practice, Writings, Weekly Work, and Participation prep questions - also begin with BG in the subject line.

e.g.

BG - a question for you

BG - my practice and weekly work

BG - something’s wrong with the links on the LibGuide

BG - need to meet with you!
TURNING IN YOUR WORK

All of your quizzes and exercises will be turned in via the class eLearning course site.

GET AHEAD - STAY AHEAD

You are strongly encouraged to start this class quickly and to earn as many points as you can early in this seven-week course because …

The class gets harder as we go - with more complex topics happening in weeks 4, 5, 6, and 7.

What Do You Know? quizzes are cumulative and will thus get more difficult with each passing week.

You might get sick or need to miss a number of classes. Earning early and extra points - via Practice, Essay Exercises, Quizlets, and the Read, Write, Cite options - is a good grade insurance policy.

YOUR PHONES - WHEN YOU CAN AND WHEN YOU CAN’T

During most class activities your phone should be out of sight (with the volume turned off). The one exception is when we are playing Kahoot (phones often work better than laptops and tablets in our classroom).

I realize that this will be a challenge for some of you (as so many of us are pretty nearly addicted to our phones) … however when we’re not playing Kahoot your phone must be out of sight (if not out of mind). If I notice you using your phone outside of Kahoot your participation points for the day will be “held hostage” until you complete a reading and paper that I will assign (most likely a paper about the perils of Internet and phone addiction!). If you need to make or take an emergency phone call you are welcome to leave the classroom to do so.
FINISHING THE COURSE EARLY

If you’ve done the math, looked at all the course options, and checked the grading/points scale, you will have noticed it is possible to reach 1000 points (A+) before seven weeks are up - especially if you work ahead.

Everyone must take the Week 7 quiz - even those finishing early and those who don’t need the points - so that both you and I have another measure of the progress you have made throughout this course.

You are officially finished early when:

a. you have reached 1000 or more points,
b. you have attempted the required Practice from Week 1,
c. you have finished your Plan for Success from Week 1,
d. you have completed the Feedback exercise from Week 4,
e. you have finished the required Code of Ethics exercise from Week 6,
f. you have provided Advice for Future Students from Week 7,
g. you have scored 30 points or more on each of the Quizzes from Weeks 1-7.

So if you want to finish the course early (before the end of the seventh week) please do so! *

* Though you will be very welcome to continue attending the remaining classes if you find them beneficial
UNI STUDENT ACADEMIC ETHICS POLICY

Please read UNI’s entire policy on Student Academic Ethics Policy at http://www.uni.edu/policies/301. The following are selected excerpts from this document:

Plagiarism

“Copying information word for word from a source, including cutting and pasting information from an electronic text, without using quotation marks and giving proper acknowledgment of the source or providing a proper citation.”

“Paraphrasing, or putting into one’s own words, the text of a source without providing proper acknowledgment of the source or providing a proper citation. The paraphrasing leads the reader of the text to believe that the ideas and arguments presented are one’s own.”

Cheating

“Cheating is the use or attempted use of any unauthorized assistance in any academic exercise. Examples include but are not limited to:

Copying from someone else’s assignment, paper, quiz or exam.

Unauthorized use of notes or other aids during a quiz, exam or other performance evaluation.”

Details regarding Academic Ethics Sanctions (actions that will be taken by the university in cases of violation of ethics) may be found in the Student Academic Ethics Policy at http://www.uni.edu/policies/301.