



Governing Iowa's Public Universities

In accordance with [Board of Regents policy 3.20](#), the following required information is available below:

Fall 2026

- I. Course title and number as designated in the institutional course catalog**
LIB 2100 – 01 Who's Controlling (Y)our Information: Access, Authority, and Technology
- II. A course description including learning objectives that students are expected to achieve by the end of the course**
 - A. Course Description:**
 1. In today's information ecosystem, it is essential to look at trends and systems of information so we can better understand the impacts and challenges of these ever-changing technologies. We will wrestle with the realities of being informed, responsible, and engaged humans within systems that may be beyond (y)our control.
 - B. Course Level Learning Objectives:**
 1. Critically analyze information from a variety of sources and points of view.
 2. Examine personal, societal, and corporate factors that influence each individual's information access, exposure, and consumption.
 3. Critique the information ecosystem and its implications on individuals and society.
 4. Engage in civic discourse about increasingly complex information issues.
- III. A general outline of the topics to be covered throughout the course:**
 - Module 1: Information and Information Literacy
 - Module 2: All About Marshall McLuhan
 - Module 3: The Internet and the World Wide Web
 - Module 4: Social Media – The Inescapable Global Village
 - Module 5: Dark Side of the Information Highway
 - Module 6: Artificial Intelligence: Prelude to The Terminator
 - Module 7: Questing Everything: Navigating Information Overload
 - Module 8: It All Comes to This!
- IV. List of required textbooks, readings, and other materials necessary for the course**
 - Information: A Relational Approach
 - Mayan Films: That is Information
 - Modern Librarian Memoirs: What is Information Literacy?



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- Research 101: Scholarship is a Conversation
- Wikipedia. Marshall McLuhan
- Simplified in Short: The Medium is the Message
- Marshall McLuhan, Media Literacy, and AI
- The Virtual Marshall McLuhan
- How the Internet Works in 4 Minutes
- The Internet vs. The World Wide Web
- Information Overload
- How Information Overload Destroys the Brain
- Why Do People Believe Things That Aren't True
- That's What You Think
- Legends Connection 4: Faith in Numbers
- Social Media Explained Visually
- The History of Social Media
- Too Much Information: Impact of Social Network Sites on Information Overload
- We Have Always Been Distracted
- How Google is Making Us Smarter
- The Kids are All Right
- Addiction to Technology is Ruining Lives
- Beware Online Filter Bubbles
- It's Not the Filter Bubbles Are Driving Us Apart
- The Filter Bubble is a Misguided, Privileged Notion
- Social Media Filter Bubbles Aren't Actually a Thing
- How Data Brokers Sold My Identity
- You Should Be Worried about Your DNA Privacy
- Sharenting
- These Companies Know When You're Pregnant
- Due Process and the Right to Privacy
- Nowhere to Hide? Why Do We Care about Privacy?
- Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
- A Brief History of AI
- AI is Finally Good at Stuff, and That's the Problem
- Why Does ChatGPT Make UP Fake Academic Papers?
- The Most Important Skill of the Century
- Ethical Concerns of Artificial Intelligence
- Biggest Ethical Challenges for Artificial Intelligence
- AI Ethics
- In AI We Trust: Ethics, AI, and Reliability
- What is Prompt Engineering?



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- IBM Technology: Four Methods of Prompt Engineering
- Introduction to Microsoft 365 Copilot
- This is Water

V. General description of the types of assessments used in the course (e.g., exams, papers, projects, experiential learning):

Weekly Thinking Activities

Weekly Thinking Activities Each week includes a short, applied activity (“Thinking Activity”) that helps you connect course concepts, readings, and media to your own experiences. These activities are designed to be low-stakes, exploratory, and reflective. They prepare you for deeper engagement in the weekly discussion board and your journal entries.

Blackboard Discussion Board

Module discussions enable students to practice effective critical inquiry to address complex topics. Discussion questions will be posted in each module. Students are expected to answer questions and to reply to at least one other student in a discussion thread. Discussion boards are the primary space for connecting course readings and videos to your lived experience and for practicing critical analysis and civic discourse.

Early, Mid-Semester and Later Journals

Early, mid-semester, and later journals allow you to synthesize what you have learned and demonstrate progress toward course learning outcomes. Journals are due Sundays at noon unless otherwise noted. All journals must be submitted as Word documents. Journals account for a significant portion of your grade and should reflect careful thought, clear writing, and engagement with course materials.

TED Talk Video - Final Project

During Finals Week, you will complete a culminating project that demonstrates your mastery of course concepts. The final project requires you to apply what you have learned about information literacy, media theory, digital culture, privacy, and AI to a real-world information challenge.