



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

LIBRARY 2100:02 - 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:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically analyze and use information from a variety of sources and points of view.
- Examine the personal, societal, and corporate factors that influence each individual's information access, exposure, and consumption.
- Critique the information ecosystem and its implications on individuals and society.
- Engage in civic discourse about increasingly complex information issues.

III. A general outline of the topics to be covered throughout the course:

1. Class Foundations
2. Information is a Commodity & Can Be Persuasively Designed
3. Information Has Value & Can Be Protected
4. Information Can Be Weaponized

IV. List of required textbooks, readings, and other materials necessary for the course

1. 60 Minutes, Anthropic CEO warns that without guardrails, AI could be on dangerous path
2. A. Alter, Book Bans Rising Rapidly in the U.S., Free Speech Groups Find



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3. V. Bansal, A Landmark Social Media Addiction Case Puts Big Tech on Trial
4. E. Barry & C. Kang, Surgeon General Calls for Warning Labels on Social Media Platforms
5. T. Benson, It's Time to Log Off
6. S. Berman, Local Newspapers are Closing. Local News is Surviving
7. Bloomberg Originals, Why is Rural America's Internet So Bad?
8. J.E. Brody, Hooked on Our Smartphones
9. J.E. Bromwich, Generation X More Addicted to Social Media than Millennials, Report Finds
10. M. Burgess, The Bizarre Reality of Getting Online in North Korea
11. C. Carlton, Racing to the Wrong Finish Line
12. CBS, The Great Broadband Divide
13. B. Chen, A.I. Complicates Old Internet Privacy Risks
14. A. Chow, ChatGPT May Be Eroding Critical Thinking Skills, According to a New MIT Study
15. Democracy Now!, 'Empire of AI' Author Karen Hao Interview
16. S. Frenkel and J. Barnes, Defense Dept. and Anthropic Square Off in Dispute Over A.I. Safety
17. T. Germain, 'Think outside the bots': How to stop AI from turning your brain to mush
18. H. Gold, The White House Just Laid Out How it Wants to Regulate AI
19. J. Green, Check Yourself with Lateral Reading
20. J. Green, Evaluating Photos & Videos
21. J. Green, The Facts about Fact-Checking
22. J. Green, Who Can You Trust?
23. T. Harris, Our Brains Are No Match for Our Technology
24. J. Kahn, Talk to Me
25. J. Kahn, War at Machine Speed
26. C. Kang, States Plow Ahead With A.I. Regulation, Defying Trump
27. C. Kang, R. Mac, and E. Tan, Meta and YouTube Found Negligent in Landmark Social Media Addiction Case
28. D. Klepper and M. O'Brien, Anthropic warns of AI-driven hacking campaign linked to China
29. K. Knibbs, Why this Award-Winning Piece of AI Art can't be Copyrighted
30. W. Knight, No One Actually Knows How AI Will Affect Jobs
31. R. McCullom, Inside the Panopticon
32. C. O'Neil, The Era of Blind Faith in Big Data Must End
33. PBS NewsHour, How Racial Biases in Medical Algorithms Lead to Inequities in Care
34. N. Perlroth, The Invisible Cyber-War
35. Piled Higher and Deeper, Open Access Explained



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36. M. Richtel, Is Social Media Addictive? Here's What the Science Says.
37. K. Roose, For Some Recent Graduates, the A.I. Job Apocalypse May Already Be Here
38. W. Schoder, The Attention Economy: How They Addict Us
39. C. Schwartz, Finding it Hard to Focus? Maybe it's Not Your Fault
40. N. Singer, Can't Put Down Your Device? That's by Design
41. D. Solove, The Nothing-to-Hide Argument
42. J. Strong, In Machines We Trust: Hired by an Algorithm
43. Tedx Talks, Be Cybersecurity Safe: Lock Your Digital Door
44. Tedx Talks, Glenn Greenwald: Why Privacy Matters
45. Tedx Talks, The Internet of Civil Rights: The New Digital Divide
46. Tedx Talks, The Right to Digital Privacy: Why Don't We Care About It?
47. Tedx Talks, Why AI is our ultimate test and greatest invitation
48. Time Magazine, Katie Couric Interviews Margaret Sullivan
49. M. Tracy, Google Made \$4.7 Billion from the News Industry in 2018, Study Says
50. D. Wallace-Wells, Are Smartphones Driving Our Teens to Depression
51. D. Walsh and S.A. Zway, A Facebook War: Libyans Battle on the Streets and on Screens
52. C. Wardle, Understanding Information Disorder Introduction

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

Journal, Short-answer assessment, Essay Test