Goals of the Course
The goals of this course are to introduce students to:
• The nature of information studies as an academic discipline and its underlying issues;
• The roles of ethics and values in information studies research;
• The nature of the research process and research culture in information studies;
• The approaches to writing for different audiences, such as grant proposals and publications;
• The different methods of data collection and analysis that can be employed in information studies;
• The different venues for disseminating research, such as journals and conferences; and
• The importance of bridging scholarship and pedagogy.

Course Approach and Expectations of Student Participation
This course meets once a week on Wednesdays from 2:00-3:00 in HBK 4113. The course is a doctoral seminar. It is imperative that every student attends each meeting and participates in the discussions of course materials. Based on critical examination of course readings, each student should develop an analytical stance concerning the issues in the course.

Office Hours & Contact Information
My office hours for Fall 2009 are Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and I can be contacted via phone (301-405-1741) or email (pjaeger@umd.edu).

Course Method
The primary mission of this course is to prepare students with an overview of the various facets that research will play in their professional lives as doctoral students, educators, and scholars in information studies.

This course will be conducted through discussion, based on readings for each week. The small size of the class should be particularly valuable in facilitating detailed discussion. Where appropriate, an advanced doctoral student or another member of the faculty may serve as a guest discussant when they are an expert in that week’s topic. Reflective journaling will be used to demonstrate learning, reflection, and growth in the course.

Assignments and Grading
Grades in this course will be based on two items.
1. Classroom participation. This seminar is a discussion-based course. You are expected to read all of the assignments, to think through the issues they raise, and to articulate your thoughts on
the materials. Clearly, you need to attend class to participate in the discussions. Attendance will be taken every week, with absences being excused in cases of illness, religious observances, and other reasons in line with university policies, or if the university is closed due to inclement weather. Classroom participation will constitute 50% of your final grade.

2. Reflective journal. After each class meeting, students are to chronicle their reactions to the discussions, the relationships of the issues to their professional and scholarly development, and how they plan to prepare to deal with these issues throughout their doctoral education. This assignment will be due in Week 14 of the course. The reflective journal will constitute 50% of your final grade.

**Topic Areas by Week (and associated readings)**

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTORY MATTERS (SEPTEMBER 2)**

**WEEK 2: STUDYING INFORMATION (SEPTEMBER 9)**

**WEEK 3: MULTI-DISCIPLINARITY AND INTERDISCIPLINARITY (SEPTEMBER 16)**

**WEEK 4: INFORMATION STUDIES EDUCATION (SEPTEMBER 23)**

**WEEK 5: DIVERSITY AND DOCTORAL EDUCATION (SEPTEMBER 30)**

**WEEK 6: INFORMATION STUDIES AND THEORY (OCTOBER 7)**

**WEEK 7: AUDIENCES OF RESEARCH (OCTOBER 14)**

**WEEK 8: SCHOLARLY WRITING (OCTOBER 21)**

**WEEK 9: PUBLICATION VENUES (OCTOBER 28)**

**WEEK 10: RESEARCH ETHICS (NOVEMBER 4)**

American Association of University Professors. *American Association of University Professors Statement on professional ethics:*
http://www(aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/statementonprofessionalethics.htm

American Psychological Association. *Ethical principles of psychologists and codes of conduct:*
http://www.apa.org/ethics/code.html

Association for Computing Machinery. *ACM code of ethics and professional conduct:*
http://www.acm.org/constitution/code.html

**WEEK 11: PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (NOVEMBER 11)**


**WEEK 12: SOCIAL IMPACTS OF RESEARCH (NOVEMBER 18)**


**WEEK 13: BRIDGING RESEARCH AND TEACHING (NOVEMBER 25)**


**WEEK 14: RESEARCH AND CAREERS (DECEMBER 2)**

**Reflective journal due**

No readings

**WEEK 15: PLANNING FOR FUTURE SUCCESS IN THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM (DECEMBER 19)**

No readings

**Syllabus Change Policy**

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

**Classroom Environment**

As a graduate seminar, the classroom environment should be professional and respectful. Discussions should be based on course readings and critical thinking. Issues of policy can involve strongly held beliefs and current political controversies. Remember--your classmates may have different perspectives on issues than you, but they still deserve your respect. As another aspect of respect in the classroom environment, turn off or mute all phones and other communication devices during each class session. If you use your laptop in the classroom, limit the usage of the computer to course-related reasons (i.e., taking notes).
Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Disability Support Services office, and (2) discuss any necessary academic accommodation with their teachers. This should be done at the beginning of the semester.

Extensions
Timeliness is extremely important in graduate work, and extensions will only be available during personal emergencies. Students who need to request an extension should discuss the matter in advance with the professor. If an extension is granted, the work must be submitted within the extension period to avoid grade penalties. Unexcused delays in submission of the paper will result in a deduction of half of a letter grade for each day the paper is late, while unexcused delays in presentations will result in a deduction of half a letter grade for each class meeting the presentation is late.

Academic Honesty
Work submitted in this course will be individual and original, in line with the University’s Academic Honor Code and Honor Pledge. Engaging in any academic dishonesty will result in consequences in line with university policies. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to plagiarism, cheating, buying work, multiple submissions of the same paper, forging signatures, submitting fraudulent documents, and facilitating the academic dishonesty of others. When writing papers, be sure to carefully and thoroughly cite all materials you use in writing your paper and make sure all ideas and quotations are properly acknowledged.

Emergency Preparedness
Information about the status of the campus is available at http://www.umd.edu/emergencypreparedness/. If the campus is closed, please make sure to stay safe. Information about possible rescheduling of course activities will be provided via e-mail once the campus has reopened.