A. Instructor, Office Hours, & Contact Information
Paul T. Jaeger, Ph.D., J.D.
Associate Professor and Diversity Officer, College of Information Studies
Office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 12-2 pm, HBK 4121D
Via phone (301-405-1741) or email (pjaeger@umd.edu).

Please allow for email responses within 24-hours Mon-Fri and 48 hours on weekends and holidays.

B. Description of Course
This integrative course is the first of a two-semester sequence of INST 888. Serving as your introduction to the field of Information Studies (aka, Library and Information Studies, Information Science, the iField, and several other things, depending on who you ask) and research about information, both semesters of the course will present an overview of intellectual foundations, key areas of research, methods, and theories used in the study of information. While it is impossible to capture the breadth of an entire academic field in the course of two semesters, this course will provide you with a foundation by which you can begin to understand the breadth and depth of this interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary field.

This first semester of INST 888 will focus on three perspectives by which to examine research about information. First, it will examine the foundations of the field, primarily the nature of information and how we chose to study it. Second, the fall semester course will discuss the different types of contexts that information research can be used to study, from ethics and values to health and education to public policy. Third, the fall semester will focus research about the institutions that are central to providing information access in society, ranging from the venerable public library to the omnipresent Internet. Most weeks address interrelated comments and institutions, and each week’s readings will introduce research, methods, and theories relevant to the topic.

In the spring semester, the course topics will focus on users, technologies, and systems related to information and information research. By the end of the year, students will have a sense of the scope of the field to ensure that they have a solid foundation on which to build their own research as they progress through the doctoral program.

C. Goals of Course
By the end of the fall semester of the course, students will be able to:
- Demonstrate familiarity with many areas integral to the field of Information Studies;
- Describe broad themes and patterns across these different areas of research;
- Reflect on the implications of information research on their own interests;
- Articulate individual areas of scholarly interest; and
- Integrate related strands of research, method, and theory.

D. Course Approach & Expectations of Student Participation
This course meets once a week on Thursdays from 2:00-4:45 in room HBK 4115. The course will be conducted as a seminar. It is essential that every student participates in the discussions of course materials. Participation means active involvement in class discussions. Students are expected to have read the assigned readings for each week PRIOR TO THAT WEEK. Students are expected to question, challenge, argue, and discuss issues and topics related to that session's readings. Students are invited to bring in additional resources, literature, and experiences that can further shape the class discussions. Failure to participate in the course will result in a letter grade of F for this component.

E. Classroom Environment
As a graduate seminar, the classroom environment should be professional and respectful. Discussions should be based on course readings and critical thinking. Human rights issues can involve strongly held beliefs and current 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 or mobile device in the classroom, limit the usage to course-related purposes (i.e., taking notes).

F. 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 at the beginning of the semester.

G. Extensions
Timeliness is an essential component of 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 10% for each day the paper is late.

H. 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. Please visit http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html for more information on the University’s Code of Academic Integrity.

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

J. CourseEvalUM
Participation in the evaluation of courses through CourseEvalUM is a responsibility that students hold as members of our academic community. Student feedback is confidential and important to the improvement of teaching and learning at the University. Please use http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu to complete course evaluations that the end of the semester.

K. Course Materials
There is no required textbook for the course. All readings will be available to students online or in another accessible format.

L. Assignments & Grading
Your grade in this course will be based on four items:
1. Class participation (30%)
2. Literature Review (20%)
3. Weekly Reflection Journal, first submission (10%)
4. Research Paper Outline (30%)
5. Weekly Reflection Journal, second submission (10%)

Guidelines for written materials for the course include:
- Full name and paper title at the top of the paper
- Single-spaced
- 12-point Arial or Calibri font
- 1-inch margins
- In-text citations and references section in APA style (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/).
- Numbered pages
- Consistent formatting
- Free of grammatical errors and erroneous typos

All papers are due via electronic submission to inst888umd@gmail.com by midnight on the due date.

1. Classroom participation (30% of final grade)
DUE: WEEKLY DURING CLASS SESSIONS
This seminar is a discussion-based course. Students are expected to complete all readings, to think through the issues raised in the readings, and to articulate thoughts on the materials in class. 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. In
order to receive an excused absence, you must notify the instructors in advance of the class meeting.

Assessment: Your classroom participation will be graded based on the insightfulness of your comments; your careful consideration of other students’ comments; and your ability to draw on the course readings, external resources, and personal experiences to justify and support your claims.

2. Literature Review (20% of final grade)
DUE: OCTOBER 7 BY MIDNIGHT
This assignment is the first of four through the course of the academic year in the two sessions of INST 888 that will prepare you to write an integrative paper. This short paper will begin with a short description (approximately 250-500 words) of the information-related research topic selected and provide 10-15 scholarly references related to the topic. Along with providing the references in correct citation format, you will write one paragraph (approximately 100-200 words) detailing the key points of the paper and how it relates to the research topic selected.

Assessment: Your paper will be graded based on the appropriateness and the clarity of the description of your selected topic; your selection of appropriate scholarly resources; your summary of those resources and your ability to relate them to the overall topic; and your adherence to the formatting and citation requirements; evidence of critical thinking; and clarity and precision of thought in your writing. Writing should avoid passive voice, opinionated sentences, and erroneous typos and grammar issues; it should cite works appropriately in line with APA standards.

3. Weekly Reflection Journal, first submission (10% of final grade)
DUE: OCTOBER 21 BY MIDNIGHT
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. The amount of words expected will vary each week by your individual interaction with that particular topic. This submission of the Reflection Journal will include an entry for each week from Week 1 to Week 7.

Assessment: Regardless of the length of the engagement, each week’s reflection must demonstrate thoughtful consideration of the topics read and discussed. You are not regurgitating what you read, you are reflecting upon it.

4. Research Paper Outline (30% of final grade)
DUE: NOV 19 BY MIDNIGHT
Your outline should explain in the topic and approach to the topic that you will explore in your research paper in the second semester of INST 888. This assignment is intended to help identify and articulate a topic, establishing a basis from which to write the research paper for the second session of the course. Your outline should consist of the following components:

- A working title (~5-10 words)
- A description of the information topic you plan to address (~200-250 words)
• A description of why this research is important/relevant to information studies (~200-250 words)
• A description of what you hope to learn or a driving question that you wish to answer (~200-250 words)
• A description of where this research would fit within the field of information studies (~200-250 words)
• A description of what your work adds to the existing literature in the field (~200-250 words)
• A description of the methods that will be used (~200-250 words)
• A description of the theoretical frame that will be employed (~200-250 words)
• A list of twenty relevant resources (formatted in APA style)
• Brief annotations for each of your resources that express its key points and/or make it clear how it will support your research paper (~100-150 words each)
• A preliminary outline with headers and at least two levels of subheadings displaying how you would approach the research topic and organize your summary and analysis of existing literature and present your original contributions

Assessment: Your outline will be graded on the completeness of your submission; the timeliness of your submission; and the clarity and precision of your writing. Writing should be succinct yet explanatory, free of erroneous typos and grammar issues, and should cite works appropriately.

5. Weekly Reflection Journal, second submission (10% of final grade)
DUE: DECEMBER 2 BY MIDNIGHT
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. The amount of words expected will vary each week by your individual interaction with that particular topic. This submission of the Reflection Journal will include an entry for each week from Week 8 to Week 13.

Assessment: Regardless of the length of the engagement, each week’s reflection must demonstrate thoughtful consideration of the topics read and discussed. You are not regurgitating what you read, you are reflecting upon it.

M. Letter Grades:
A+ 97-100  C+ 77-79
A 93-96     C 73-76
A- 90-92     C- 70-72
B+ 87-89     D+ 67-69
B 83-86     D 63-66
B- 80-82     D- 60-62
--------     F 0-59
N. Course Schedule & Readings

Sept 5: Foundations of Information Studies
Readings:
- Course Syllabus

Sept 12: The Nature of Information (*and the nature of the course*)
Special Guest: Jen Golbeck
Readings:

Sept 19: The Field of Information Studies
Readings:

Sept 26: Information Access
Readings:

Oct 3: Information Behavior
Readings:

Oct 7: Literature Review due to inst888umd@gmail.com by midnight

Oct 10: Values and Ethics (and writing strategies)
Special Guests: Katie Shilton, Jes Koepfler, and Jeff DiScala
Readings:

Oct 17: Law and Policy (and assessing scholarly literature)
Special Guests: Ursula Gorham; Jen Golbeck
Readings:
Oct 21: Weekly Reflection Journal, first submission due to inst888umd@gmail.com by midnight

Oct 24: Literacy and Inclusion
Special Guest: Natalie Taylor
Readings:

Oct 31: Health and Wellness
Special Guest: Beth St. Jean
Readings:

Nov 7: Education and Education Libraries
Special Guest: Mega Subramaniam
Readings:
Nov 14: Public Libraries and Community Needs
Special Guest: John Bertot
Readings:

Nov 18: Research Paper Outline due to inst888umd@gmail.com by midnight

Nov 21: Archives and Digital Curation (and conducting scholarly research)
Special Guests: Ricky Punzalan; Jen Golbeck
Readings:

Nov 28: No Class in honor of Thanksgiving and Hanukkah (and completing your final assignments)

Dec 2: Weekly Reflection Journal, second submission due to inst888umd@gmail.com by midnight

Dec 5: Social Justice and Human Rights
Readings: