LIS 2003– Introduction to Information Studies

**Catalog Course Description:** 3 hours. Explores the definition, impact, and history of information and information transmission. Introduces technology used to create, read, store, retrieve and transmit information. Analyzes societal institutions, techniques, and processes for the creation, distribution and management of information. Assesses the role of the information professions and information systems in culture and society.

**Interpretation of Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce the principles of information studies as a discipline, focusing on information history, technology, creation, transfer and use. These issues inform how information, in all disciplines and endeavors, guides our decisions. Students explore how information transforms society as well as how changes in ethical, societal, economic and political realms shape information creation, transfer, management, and technology.

**Audience:** (level, environment/setting): Required, Introductory course for the BAIS. Online format.

**Expectations:** Since this is an introductory course, students are not expected to have any prior knowledge to be prepared for the course.

**Student Learning Objectives:** At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Define information and explain the differences among varying theoretical concepts and philosophical views of information.
- Describe the development over time of communications systems and analyze the impact of those systems on information and information transmission.
- Identify and compare functions of current technologies used to create, store, retrieve, and transmit data and information.
- Analyze the functions of societal institutions for creation, distribution, and management of information and their impact on use of information in society.
- Identify and assess the roles of the various sectors of the information profession and their interaction with information systems and technologies.
- Evaluate the effect of information, information technologies, and information systems on cultures and societies.
- Apprise the influence of new information technologies on issues of information ethics.
- Interpret information in an economic framework.
- Identify and explain the key information policy issues and institutions of the past and present and forecast the likely issues and institutions of the immediate future.

**Topics:**

- Theories and definitions of information.
- History of and current information technology.
- Impact of information on society, as well as societies impact on information.
- Current issues in information studies, including professions, access, security, economics, and standards.

**Opportunities for Utilizing Relevant Technology:** Since this course is delivered online, students will exclusively use technology to access materials, and complete assignments (written essays, online quizzes, and discussion).

**Course Last Offered:** Spring 2013  
**Document prepared by:** Stacy Zemke, Spring 2013

**Notes:** This course is offered in both 16 week and 8 week formats during the Spring and Fall semesters.

**Disclaimer:** This summary represents the course as it has been taught in past semesters and is provided for the convenience of students and advisors. No guarantees are expressed or implied about current and future course offerings.