

Designation of Courses to be Considered for Inclusion in Information and Communication in Society Breadth Category (BICS)

Content / Subject Matter

Courses in Information and Communication in Society study the dynamic interaction between modes of communication and the way these modes of communication can affect interpretation of the information they convey. Effects of the structure of written and spoken languages on thought processes and perception, influence of information bias on decision-making processes, and effects of technology infrastructure on the creation, use, duplication, and transmission of information may be examined in ICS courses. ICS courses can approach the interface between information and communication from societal or cultural perspectives including language use and mass communications, and/or from technological or quantitative perspectives including computer programming languages, information technology systems, and statistics.

Methodology

ICS courses include both applied skill and relational content components. The applied component exposes students to the skills necessary to understand and utilize the mode(s) of communication under study. Students are encouraged to employ these skills through assignments and/or exercises that highlight how information can be conveyed. The relational content component demonstrates how perception, decision-making and/or cognitive constructs can be affected by the mode of communication by introducing examples from across the range of disciplinary topics. Discussion focuses on the dynamic relationship between communication mode, societal biases, and individual perception of the nature or quality of information.

Course Goals

- recognition of how the quality and perception of information can be shaped by its mode of communication and how the style of communication can be affected by the information to be conveyed;
- enhancement of the skills necessary to convey and access information through one or more mode of communication;
- recognition of the critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate the ethical and accurate use of information;
- experience in modulating informational components through the use of different communication strategies.