

DTC 356.01 Information Structures Spring 2024

NOTE: This syllabus is provided for DTC 356.01 as taught as part of the CMDC option at WSUV. Required and recommended information regarding course policies, guidelines, and resources is provided, either in this document or by following provided links. In either case, students are responsible for reading and understanding the information provided. Questions? Comments? Opposing Viewpoints? Let me know. I am happy to discuss.

Logistics

3 credits, No prerequisites

Spring 2024, Section 01, M, W, 10:35-11:50 AM, VMMC 111

Mode/Medium of delivery: Synchronous/Asynchronous via Classroom, Basecamp, and Slack

Instructor	Office	Telephone	Email	Student Hours
Dr. John F. Barber	VMMC 24	Please use email	jfbarber@wsu.edu	MW, 12 noon-2:00 PM Other times arranged
NOTE: All aspects of this course may change. Changes will be communicated to students.				

Description

DTC 356 Information Structures focuses on organizing and interacting with digital information. Students examine organization theory, information architecture, search engine optimization, and search techniques for digital environments and interfaces. They leave the course with knowledge of creating, sharing, and interacting with digital information in different contexts.

Structure, Expectations, Instructional Methods

DTC 356 Information Structures combines theory and practice. Course information is presented via assigned readings and lectures. Your developing knowledge is assessed through discussions, projects, presentations, and professor evaluation. Instead of exams and/or quizzes, you will conceptualize, create, and share projects associated with the course focus. Some work time will be available during some classes, but you must expect to complete most of your course work outside of class. The more time and effort you invest in this course, to show up and participate fully, the better your opportunities for earning higher grades. Kindness, civility, respect, and tolerance are expected from and for everyone. Your response to these expectations will have consequences, either to your benefit, or not.

Schedule

See the course Basecamp for readings, assignments, and class activities.

Learning Outcomes

This course is aligned with several WSU Learning Goals and Outcomes, the CMDC Option's Learning Goals and Objectives, and the CMDC Option's Five Standards of Excellence. This course also reflects my own goals as a teacher-facilitator. Information is available in our course Basecamp > Docs & Files > Course Info > Course Miscellaneous > Learning Goals

Student Hours

I will be available in my office during the times noted above. During these times we can meet face-to-face and discuss any questions or concerns you may have. You can make an appointment, or walk in. If these times are not convenient, I am happy to arrange another time for a face-to-face meeting, or a virtual meeting using Zoom.

University Syllabus

From the Provost's Office . . . "Students are responsible for reading and understanding all university-wide policies and resources pertaining to all courses (for instance: accommodations, care resources, policies on discrimination or harassment), which can be found in the [university syllabus](#)." See also our course Basecamp > Docs & Files > Course Info > Syllabus > Policies and Guidelines.

Academic Integrity Statement

The following statement is required by the Office of the Provost . . .

"You are responsible for reading WSU's [Academic Integrity Policy](#), which is based on [Washington State law](#). If you cheat in your work in this class you will:

- Fail the assignment and/or the class.
- Be reported to the [Center for Community Standards](#).
- Have the right to appeal my decision.
- Not be able to drop the course or withdraw from the course until the appeals process is finished.

"If you have any questions about what you can and cannot do in this course, ask me. If you want to ask for a change in my decision about academic integrity, use [the form](#) at the [Center for Community Standards](#) website. You must submit this request within 21 calendar days of the decision."

An important component of Academic Integrity is plagiarism, as something to avoid. Here's a very good video by Wikipedia that can help you understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, <https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/training/students/plagiarism/plagiarism-and-copyright-video>

Artificial Intelligence Policy

The use of any text generative artificial intelligence platform is discouraged, unless specifically required by a project and/or in consultation with the course instructor. Evidence that suggests an AI platform has been used outside these specific instances will be treated as an academic integrity violation.

Good To Know Statements

Statements and policies regarding the Emergency Notification Network, Inclement Weather Policy, WSU Vancouver Campus Emergency Links, and Service/Emotional Support Animal Guidelines are good to know. See our course Basecamp > Docs & Files > Course Info > Syllabus > Policies and Guidelines > Good To Know Statements.

Course Timeline

See the course Basecamp for weekly readings, assignments, and class activities, Basecamp > Course Prep.

Course Online Sources

Like most other DTC classes, this course utilizes Basecamp and Slack as Learning Management Systems. Basecamp is a repository of course resources, information, and a portfolio for your course projects. Slack is our communication channel, and discussion forum. In the case of bad weather, or other campus disruption, we can use Slack to facilitate an online class meeting.

Texts

All course texts and other resource materials are available online, in our course Basecamp, accessible through the weekly Course Prep documents. You can read them online, or download them to your computer.

Fees

Beyond tuition, no course or other special fees are required for this course.

Resources

Web space is available for student work. Contact Greg Philbrook (greg.philbrook@wsu.edu) for details. A File Transfer Protocol (FTP) program is necessary to upload files you create to your webspace. FTP programs are available on all classroom computers.

Exams

Mid-term and/or final exams are NOT required for this course. Attendance, participation, and projects will be used to determine course grades. More information below.

GRADES AND GRADING

Mid-term and final grades are determined by points earned for attendance+participation+projects. No curving, averaging, grade bumps, or other manipulations are utilized. More information and details below.

Component	Points	Basis for assessment
Attendance	10	<p>Individual. Attendance is part of your course grades. Regular attendance will help. Absences will hurt. Details to keep in mind . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *If absent for any reason, you remain responsible for everything associated with the class(es) you missed, including changes. Late and/or missed work not accepted, or accepted with penalty. *Regular physical attendance is required for course success. *Arriving late and/or leaving early may count as absences. *After two absences, three (3) points may be deducted for each subsequent absence. *The course professor establishes the attendance policy for this class and is the final authority on attendance. <p>NOTE: Be considerate of others . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Do not attend class if you are sick. Your health, and that of others, is more important. *Do not attend if you are not motivated. No one wants to see you bored. <p>NOTE: See "Inclement Weather Policy" in our course Basecamp > Docs & Files > Course Info > Syllabus > Policies and Guidelines > Inclement Weather Policy.</p> <p>NOTE: Students who do not attend class meetings during the first week of the semester may be dropped from the course.</p> <p>NOTE: See University Catalog, section 72. Class Attendance and Absences (http://www.catalog.wsu.edu/Vancouver/AcademicRegulations/Search/both/class_attendance)</p>

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Participation	10	<p>Individual. Active engagement with course activities, expectations, requirements, and community will factor into determining course grades. Lack of preparation and/or commitment to participating in an engaging, thoughtful manner, as well as working off task (checking email, social media, playing games, etc.), may result in point deductions at the professor's discretion, or a suggestion that student(s) drop the course.</p> <p>The following heuristics will be applied to assessment of participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works collaboratively and respectfully with others• Functions under pressure without supervision or immediate guidance• Solves problems, often with "just in time learning" and/or the ability to research appropriate solutions• Meets deadlines and produces work as and when required• Communicates effectively through speaking and writing• Demonstrates self-motivation and independent problem solving to benefit both collaborative team and individual outcomes• Performs expectations and requirements of specific assigned project(s) or role(s), or goes beyond them• Develops and implements new skills as required by assigned project(s) or role(s)• Predicts potential problems, seeks and implements solutions, and assures their success through attention to detail(s)• Leads and inspires others by example in both thought and practice• Implements skills learned from other CMDC classes• Demonstrates exemplary engagement through a constant search for ways in which to contribute to the successful completion of assigned project(s)
Projects X 6	80	<p>Individual/Collaborative as noted. 6 total. 4 x 10 each = 40 points. 2 x 20 each = 40 points. 40 + 40 = 80 points. Prompts and general instructions provided for each project. Each should be significant and demonstrate your learning, depth and engagement with the associated problems, and creative yet practical solutions to those problems. Points deducted for not following instructions, lack of clarity, depth, breadth, and/or integration of course knowledge, mistakes in grammar and/or mechanics, other problems that confuse the communication of your idea.</p>
Total Points	100	

Grade Determination

Mid-term and final grades are based on points earned for attendance, participation, and projects. The basis for assessment of these points is described above.

Mid-term and final grades are determined using this formula . . .
Grade=(Attendance Points + Participation Points + Projects Points).

Points may be deducted for lack of attendance and/or participation, and for problems with projects. No curving, averaging, grade bumps, or other manipulations are utilized. No extra credit opportunities are planned. Incompletes are not available. + and - grades will be used at instructor's discretion. Completion of any course component does not guarantee the highest grade.

I encourage you to discuss your progress, performance, questions, and concerns with me. I will exercise caution and fairness in assessing your work and assigning grades but remain the final authority on all matters related to assessment and grading.

Grades are based on the scale below, along with the level of performance expected for each grade. Notice that the grade of "D" is not offered; reverts to "F."

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Grade	Points	Results	Description
A	90 and above	Exemplary work	Goes beyond requirements and expectations; Shows a high level of engagement by student
B	80-89	Good work	Good work, but not exemplary
C	70-79	Acceptable work	Meets minimum expectations and requirements but does not go beyond them; Shows acceptable engagement by student, but no more
F	70 and below	Minimal work Failure	Little effort, engagement, participation. Failure by student in any or all aspects of course expectations or requirements