UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, FALL 2017
JOUR 302 INFOMANIA: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00pm -2:15pm
Room: STAUFFER-FLINT 202

Instructor: Shola Aromona
Office: Stauffer-Flint 113
Email: shola.aromona@ku.edu

Office Hours
 Tuesdays: 10am – 12noon
 Thursdays: 10am – 12noon
 By appointment

TEXTBOOK

COURSE PURPOSE
Information Management (JOUR 302 INFOMANIA) is designed to activate critical thinking and evaluation of the credibility of information sources.

COURSE GOAL
You probably are already acutely aware of the ubiquitous nature of media messages. The goal of this course is to educate you on how to find, evaluate, and critically synthesize information from credible sources.

This class satisfies Goal 1 outcome of the KU Core: “upon reaching this goal, students will be able to analyze and evaluate assumptions, claims, evidence, arguments, and forms of expression; select and apply appropriate interpretive tools.”

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate the ability to:
By the end of this course, you should be able to:
- identify a topic of interest, articulate its significance, and outline a research strategy.
- Ask questions that help you find and interpret information necessary to advance their topic.
- Use digital databases, libraries, business records, public records, and individuals as sources of information
- Retrieve information from these sources.
- Critically evaluate information sources, research data and your own work for credibility, accuracy, completeness and diversity.
- synthesize and summarize retrieved information, and give proper attribution to sources.

CLASS FORMAT
This course will consist of chapter readings, lectures, videos, case studies and guest speakers. Class time is focused on discussions. To prepare for discussions, you should read prior to class. Discussions are crucial so you are expected to come prepared to share your views, listen intently and respect other opinions, take notes, and think critically. Students are responsible for all content in chapter readings, assignments, and class presentations.
GRADING
Total points available: 500 points
Group Presentations: 100 points
Assignments, news posts, and reflections: 300 points
Topic research: 100 points
Research participation or Course summary: 25 points (bonus)

GRADING SCALE
A     +470pts    C+   +385pts    D-    +300pts
A-    +450pts    C    +370pts
B+    +434pts    C-   +350pts
B     +420pts    D+   +335pts
B-    +400pts    D    +320pts

ATTENDANCE POLICY
I reward students for coming to class, I do not penalize. Each student can miss five class
days excused or unexcused. Students missing five classes or less are eligible to add an
extra 30 points to your final point total. Each class, an attendance sheet will be
circulated. It is the student’s responsibility to sign the attendance sheet by the end of
class. No signatures are allowed after class is over – even if we end early. Students
signing other students’ names will be subject to an honor code violation. If you are more
than 10 minutes late you cannot sign the attendance sheet.

ASSIGNMENTS
Weekly assignments will consist of reflection posts, news posts, and short in class
presentations. Reflection assignments and news posts will be posted on Blackboard. Each
week, by Sunday at 11:59pm, students must submit the weekly assignments on
Blackboard. Where applicable, you will be required to link to original news or
information sources.

GROUP PROJECT AND PRESENTATION
The focus of this project is to work in a team to leverage on news aggregators and other
information sources to create a compelling content relevant to the learning goals of this
class. Each team will critically evaluate and summarize specific case studies or stories
and will assess, using the information management skills gained in the class, credibility
issues present in the studies or stories. Findings will be presented in class with peer
evaluations.

TOPIC PRESENTATION
At the beginning of the semester, you will identify a topic of interest and as the semester
progresses, you will gather, critically evaluate, and synthesize information to advance
your topic. At the end of the semester, compile all the information you collect about your
topic into a compelling presentation of not more than 5 presentation slides. You will
email it to me and make a short in class presentation. You must be here to get credit for
the presentation.
First Draft – 15 points
Locate at least three sources and set up news aggregators that address your topic.
Using the sources, develop a tentative statement on available information and relevance of your inquiry. This draft should not exceed 2 paragraphs.

Developed Draft – 25 points
Locate additional sources that address your question. Critically evaluate the information and positions of your sources. This draft will answer questions about the significance of your sources’ position and how it advances your topic, as well as the credibility of the sources. This attempt should be about 3 or 4 paragraphs.

Final Attempt – 60 points
Here you will bring together the evaluated information and write a synthesized summary of your findings. You are not providing your own opinions, rather, you are reporting the information you have gathered all semester as regards your topic. You must provide complete and accurate attribution to sources. This final attempt should not exceed 5 paragraphs and should attest to your developed information management abilities.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION OR PERSONAL COURSE SUMMARY BONUS
As a bonus, you have the option to complete one of two assignments that will be marked complete/incomplete. You can participate in a research study that your instructor will tell you more about. It will entail taking an online survey. Or you can write a summary of what you learned in this course. It will be between 500 and 700 words. You will focus not only on the information you researched but, more importantly, on what you learned about finding and evaluating quality information.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
You are responsible for all materials used in this class. Reading assignments are to be read prior to coming to class. If you have questions about text-related material not covered in class, please ask.

Students are responsible for checking Blackboard and for all emails sent to student accounts. This is my only way to communicate with the entire class outside of the classroom. YOU MUST CHECK BLACKBOARD AND YOUR STUDENT EMAIL ACCOUNT DAILY. NO EXCEPTIONS.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE
I encourage you to communicate with me about the course face-to-face during office hours, or through e-mail. If you choose the latter, please be mindful of email etiquette. Compose a brief yet informative subject line. Use a greeting at the beginning of your message. Write the body of your message using full sentences, proper capitalization and punctuation, no text-speak please. Explain your question or concern as completely as possible. Sign your message using your full (first and last) name.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
In this class, and in all journalism classes, honesty and integrity are critical. Any work you do must be original and reflect your own ideas, thoughts, and research. In a work setting, if you choose to violate professional standards, you will be fired. In this class, if
you choose to violate the standards for academic integrity, you will fail the course, and you may be expelled from the School of Journalism.

Here is the School’s official policy statement:

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications does not tolerate plagiarism, fabrication of evidence and falsification of evidence.

In this course, the penalty for plagiarism, fabrication or falsification is a failing grade for the semester. Additional penalties can include expulsion from the School of Journalism. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, please consult the professor of this course.

The KU University Senate defines plagiarism as “knowingly presenting the work of another as one’s own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the information or ideas are common knowledge.” The University defines fabrication and falsification as “unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.”

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The KU office of Disability Resources coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. The office is located in 22 Strong Hall; the phone number is 864-2620 (V/TTY). Information about services can be found at http://disability.ku.edu. Please also contact me privately about your needs in this course.
## Class Schedule

*Subject to change to meet our needs. Please take particular note of bolded dates.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Due</th>
<th>WK 1</th>
<th>Introduction to . . . so many things</th>
<th>Let’s talk about credibility</th>
<th>Chapter 1 – Credibility</th>
<th>8/24</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WK 2</td>
<td>Credibility, critical thinking, and attribution</td>
<td>MacLeod, chapter 1</td>
<td>8/29 – 8/31</td>
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<td>WK 3</td>
<td>Web Literacy</td>
<td>Readings TBA</td>
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<td>Topic Identification</td>
<td><strong>Topic Submission due 9/7</strong></td>
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<td>WK 4</td>
<td>Advanced Google Search</td>
<td>MacLeod, chapter 3</td>
<td>9/12 – 9/14</td>
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<td>Should we trust google? Wikipedia?</td>
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<td>WK 5</td>
<td>Library Resources</td>
<td>MacLeod, chapters 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>9/19 – 9/21</td>
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<td>WK 6</td>
<td>Library Resources</td>
<td><strong>First Draft due 9/28</strong></td>
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<td>News Archives</td>
<td>Readings TBA</td>
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<td>WK 7</td>
<td>News Archives</td>
<td>Readings TBA</td>
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<td>Business Information</td>
<td>MacLeod, chapter 8</td>
<td>10/10 – 10/12</td>
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<td>Population/consumer research</td>
<td>MacLeod, chapter 7</td>
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<td>WK 9</td>
<td>Public Records</td>
<td>MacLeod, chapter 9</td>
<td>10/24 – 10/26</td>
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<td><strong>Developed Draft due 10/24</strong></td>
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<td>WK 10</td>
<td>Web Literacy</td>
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<td>10/31 – 11/2</td>
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<td>Virtual/Digital Databases</td>
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<td>11/7 – 11/9</td>
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<td>WK 11</td>
<td>Group Presentations &amp; Peer Evaluations</td>
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<td>Nonprofit Information</td>
<td>MacLeod, chapter 6</td>
<td>11/21</td>
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<td>WK 12</td>
<td>Final Paper/Topic Presentation</td>
<td><strong>Due 11/28 &amp; 11/30</strong></td>
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<td>Academic Research</td>
<td>Reading TBA</td>
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<td>Research Participation or Personal Course Summary</td>
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**Note:** Please refer to the document for the full schedule, including all bolded dates and details. The schedule is subject to change to meet the needs of the class.