

Spring 2017
Syllabus (subject to change)
INSC 593: Seminar in Youth Informatics
Class Meetings: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:10 P.M.
Meetings: Virtual via Zoom

Professor Dania Bilal, Instructor
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1345 Circle Drive, # 446
Knoxville, TN37996-0341
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Description: Explores key areas in youth informatics. Seminar includes discussion of basic, applied, and evaluative research and projects at the national and international levels. Covers research trends in youth informatics. Provides a forum for presentation and criticism of past and current research by students.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Students who complete this course will be capable of demonstrating awareness, knowledge, and/or understanding of:

1. general principles, values, and ethical standards of providing information services in a variety of settings and for diverse youth populations.
2. changing responsibilities of the information professional toward youth and use of technology in a culturally diverse and networked global society.
3. explaining the changing nature of information, information needs, and information behavior in relation to youth in the digital age.
4. Assessing information technologies, systems, sources and services that serve youth effectively and efficiently.
5. Analyzing and discussing research related to youth and technology in the profession and society.

SEMINAR DESIGN

This seminar builds on knowledge of youth informatics gained in INSC 583. This seminar provides opportunity to learn about research trends in youth informatics (past, present, and future), and to interact with influential researchers and learn what they are doing in the area of digital youth and interaction with technologies from across the world. It touches on research in

the everyday lives of all youth in formal and informal settings, including disadvantaged populations such as homeless, refugees, poor, and rural, among others. Weekly class topics may be indicated in advance and may also emerge before, during, or after a class session based on students' interests and class discussions.

Students will participate in instructor-led, speaker-led, and student-led discussions. Guest speakers will share research experiences with youth, issues, and challenges. The course is research-oriented. It requires reading, analyzing, synthesizing, and discussing research that involves digital youth.

Readings are listed in the **Course Schedule**. Guest speakers may assign their own readings, which will be posted in Canvas when provided. The readings list will be augmented throughout the semester.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Bilal, Dania and Jamshid Beheshti (eds.). 2014. *New Directions in Children's and Adolescents' Information Behavior Research*. Howard House, UK: Emerald.

Agosto, Denise E. and June Abbas. 2011. *Teens, Libraries, and Social Networking: What Librarians Need to Know*. ABC-CLIO.

Additional texts will be added throughout the semester.

COMMUNICATION

I will communicate with you through your UTK email address. If you prefer to use another address, consult the [OIT Helpdesk](#) to obtain directions for forwarding your UTK mail to your preferred address if you don't wish to check both accounts.

COMPUTING REQUIREMENTS

You must have adequate computing skills, including but not limited to use of word processing, Web browsers, e-mail, listservs, Canvas, and Zoom software. You must learn how to submit your assignments using Canvas. The [Office of Information Technology \(OIT\)](#) provides training classes in using varied technologies for students at no charge (advance registration is required).

You must obtain a UT email account and subscribe to the SIS student listserv. In addition, you must have the PowerPoint Reader or the regular PowerPoint software installed on your computer in order to download the lecture notes from Canvas.

Other Requirements

- Students must have an adequate level of computing skills, including but not limited to use of Microsoft Office suite or equivalent, web searching, using search engines effectively, searching online databases including finding full text articles sending and receiving email using appropriate email etiquettes, subscribing to listservs including SIS listserv, as well as using Zoom and Canvas.
- Students must have and use a UTK email account.
- Students must have access to a PowerPoint Reader, PowerPoint, Prezi or

- equivalent to download lecture notes.
- Students must have computers that are equipped with **microphones**. Please test your computer audio by running the Zoom Audio Wizard before attending each class session. This will help sync the computer audio in Zoom and ensure a quality audio on both sides during class. Students may need to use headphones to receive a better sound quality.
 - Students who attend class using a wireless network should ensure that the network has the highest transmission quality. They should also be close to the network's router to capture good audio and video signals and overcome possible screen freezing problems.
 - Students must attend class in a quiet area with no background noise (e.g., TV, music, pitch sounds).
 - Students may need to close all computer windows to obtain a good and immediate screen display of lecture slides or to view the apps that are screen shared in class.
 - Students should use hard-wired computers, if the wireless connection is weak.
 - Students must not attend class on their mobile devices while driving. Those who do, however, are responsible for any issues or problems they may experience.

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY

- It is assumed that each student be present and speak in class. Missing classes or failing to participate will lower your grade; frequent constructive participation will raise the grade.
- Regular attendance is required and necessary. A substantial portion of your grade will be based on in-class work and participation (5%). Unexplained absences will affect your grade. Contact me as soon as possible if you cannot attend class. If you will be absent from class, you must:
 - Inform me in advance or as soon as possible after class
 - Submit any work due from the missed class period
 - Listen to class recording
 - Obtain notes, handouts, etc. from Canvas
 - Check with classmates for notes, announcements, etc.
 - *Acceptable reasons for absence from class include:*
 - Illness,
 - Serious family emergencies
 - Special curricular or job requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences),
 - Military obligation,
 - Severe weather conditions
 - Religious holidays
 - Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate

- Obligations for court imposed legal obligations (i.e., jury duty, subpoena)
- Missing more than one class meeting for reasons other than those listed above will have a negative impact on your course participation grade such as a reduced credit of 5 points that will be deducted from the total grade.

COURSE DELIVERY

The course will be delivered live via Zoom and asynchronously using Canvas for supporting materials and interactions.

COLLABORATIVE WORK

Students are encouraged to use Google Docs, Google Hangouts, or equivalent applications to work collaboratively on activities outside of the classroom as applicable.

EXPECTATIONS

Students who miss a class are responsible for obtaining class notes and other materials related to the course. They should replay the missed class recorded session and do the class activities on their own, as applicable. Missing class without providing a legitimate excuse will result in a reduced credit of 5 points each time.

Students must submit class activities on time. Each past due activity will incur a reduced credit of five points.

Students unfamiliar with research methods should consult the course readings and work on their own to gain as much knowledge as possible to learn how various methods are employed in HCI.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

- All assigned class activities must be submitted in Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on the due date indicated in the Course Schedule. Name and save your assignment as follows:
 - Name: **LastnameFirstinitial-593-assignmentX**
 - Example: **BilalD-593-assignment1**
 - All submissions should be in Word or equivalent with file extension **.doc** or **.docx**.
 - **Please** Do not use **RTF** or **PDF** or **HTML** any other file format for saving your assignment
 - document. **Assignments that do not bear .doc or .docx will be rejected.**
 - Paginate your assignment
 - Include your name on the assignment first page on the top left corner. **Assignments without names on the first page will be rejected.**
- Assignment documents that do not open on my computer due to file format and those that are not in line with the submission guidelines will be rejected.

TROUBLINGSHOOTING

If you experience connectivity problems, please contact OIT at 865. 974,9900 or complete a help form online at <http://remedy.utk.edu/contact>. Note that OIT office is not open 24/7; therefore, plan to connect to Zoom at least 30 minutes before class time. You may also contact Janelle Cleaves, the DE support specialist for this course. Janelle's email is on the first page of this syllabus.

LECTURE NOTES

Most lecture notes will be posted on Canvas in advance of each class meeting. **Please note that faculty members are not obliged to post lecture notes at all.** It is up to the faculty member to share these notes with the students. The notes will not substitute for the textbook or required readings.

CLASS ENGAGEMENT AND INTERACTION RULES

You are highly encouraged to participate in class by sharing constructive ideas and related experiences, engaging in class discussion and collaborating with peers to solve certain problems or simulate situations. Make sure that when you participate in class, you do not take up time from other classmates so that they can also contribute their ideas.

Five percent (**5%**) of the total grade is assigned for constructive, active class participation throughout the semester.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

"The chancellor (or appointed representative) may officially close or suspend selected activities of the university because of extreme weather conditions. When a decision to close is made, information is distributed to the campus community, shared with local media, and posted on the front page at <http://utk.edu>. (Hilltopics, p. 55)(<http://hilltopics.utk.edu/files/Hilltopics%202015-16.pdf>). SIS will cancel classes when UT is closed. Please check the SIS student listserv (UTKSIS-L@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU) for messages about closing.

DISABILITIES THAT CONSTRAIN LEARNING

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 865.974.6087 in 100 Dunford Hall to document their eligibility for services. ODS will work with students and faculty to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

CIVILITY

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other's well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of

civility and community adopted by the campus: <http://civility.utk.edu/>

CCI DIVERSITY STATEMENT

“The College of Communication and Information recognizes that a college diverse in its people, curricula, scholarship, research, and creative activities expands opportunities for intellectual inquiry and engagement, helps students develop critical thinking skills, and prepares students for social and civic responsibilities. All members of the College benefit from diversity and the quality of learning, research, scholarship and creative activities is enhanced by a climate of inclusion, understanding and appreciation of differences and the full range of human experience. As a result, the College is committed to diversity and equal opportunity and it recognizes that it must represent the diversity inherent in American society. The College is acutely aware that diversity and fairness are foundations that unite the College’s faculty, staff, students, and the larger communication and information community.”
<http://www.cci.utk.edu/diversity-statement>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students should be familiar and maintain their *Academic Integrity* described in <http://hilltopics.utk.edu/files/Hilltopics%202015-16.pdf>, p. 15 as: “*Study, preparation and presentation should involve at all times the student’s own work, unless it has been clearly specified that work is to be a team effort. Academic honesty requires that the student present his or her own work in all academic projects, including tests, papers, homework, and class presentation. When incorporating the work of other scholars and writers into a project, the student must accurately cite the source of that work.*”

Students should abide by the **Honor Statement** described in the same Hilltopics, p. 73:

“An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism in any of its several forms is intolerable, and attention to matters of documentation in all written work is expected and required. Inadvertence, alleged lack of understanding, or avowed ignorance of the various types of plagiarism are not acceptable excuses.

Specific examples of plagiarism are:

1. Copying without proper documentation (quotation marks and a citation) written or spoken words, phrases, or sentences from any source;
2. Summarizing without proper documentation (usually a citation) ideas from another source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
3. Borrowing facts, statistics, graphs, pictorial representations, or phrases without acknowledging the source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
4. Collaborating on a graded assignment without the instructor’s approval;

5. Submitting work, either in whole or in part, created by a professional service and used without attribution (e.g., paper, speech, bibliography, or photograph).

Students who may be unsure of the nature of plagiarism should consult the instructor or a guide for writing research reports. (Additional resources are available at <http://www.lib.utk.edu/instruction/plagiarism>.)

Infractions of academic integrity are penalized according to the severity of the infraction but **may include a course grade of "F."**

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Student work is assigned a grade based on quality of thought and writing style, thoroughness of research and of references, appropriateness of length, and originality. Only exceptional work will receive an "A" grade. Papers that are received after the due date will be assigned a lower grade than would otherwise be received. All sources must be cited, quotations must be in quotation marks and attributed correctly. Not doing so constitutes plagiarism.

DUE DATES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments should be submitted to the "assignments" area of Canvas and are due (officially) at 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date listed on the syllabus. I will download the submissions from Canvas early the next morning. **I will ONLY download assignments from Canvas ONCE.** Therefore, if your assignment is not ready by the deadline, I will not grade it and you will receive a zero point.

- You must send me an email informing me that your assignment will be late. **Not doing so will result in a one-point deduction for each day I don't hear from you.**
- When it's ready, you must submit it to me via email, as an attachment
- One point will be deducted for each 24-hour period the assignment is not turned in.

INCOMPLETES

Based on adopted University of Tennessee-Knoxville and SIS policy, a grade of *I* (Incomplete) is reserved for emergencies that prevent the student from completing the course on time. Incompletes are granted only under "the most unusual of circumstances" and solely at the discretion of the instructor. Plan your semester's course of study carefully to insure sufficient time to complete the required work.

For students who simply "disappear" without contacting the instructor and without completing the required form, an "F" is submitted.

ASSIGNING GRADES

Please note that I do not assign letter grades for individual assignments, but will mark your paper with my comments and provide a point score based on the possible points earned for that assignment. If you would like to compute a letter grade based on the score provided, divide your score by the total points possible for the assignment and refer to the scale on pp. 5-6 of the syllabus for the corresponding letter grade. For example, if you earned 23/25 points on an assignment, your percentage grade would be 92. Your final grade will be based on total points earned/total possible points over the course of the semester.

WORK EVALUATION

I will assign semester grades according to the following scale:

A	93≤	(4 quality points per semester hour) superior performance.
A-	90- 92.75	(3.7 quality points per semester credit hour) intermediate grade performance.
B+	88- 89.75	(3.5 quality points per semester hour) better than satisfactory performance.
B	83- 87.75	(3 quality points per semester hour) satisfactory performance.
B-	80- 82.75	(2.7 quality points per semester credit hour) intermediate grade performance.
C+	78- 79.75	(2.5 quality points per semester hour) less than satisfactory performance.
C	70- 77.75	(2 quality points per semester hour) performance well below the standard expected of graduate students.
D	60- 69.75	(1 quality point per semester hour) clearly unsatisfactory performance and cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
F	59.75≥	(no quality points) extremely unsatisfactory performance and cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
I		(no quality points) a temporary grade indicating that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course but, due to unforeseen circumstances, has been unable to finish all requirements. An I is not given to enable a student to do additional work to raise a deficient grade. The instructor, in consultation with the student, decides the terms for the removal of the I, including the time limit for removal. If the I is not removed within one calendar year, the grade will be changed to an F. The course will not be counted in the cumulative grade point average until a final grade is assigned. No student may graduate with an I on the record.

GRADING

Graded class activities will be returned within two to three weeks. Please review the graded activity even if you have received a high grade as there may be insightful comments or additional thoughts you should consider.

You have **one week** from the time I have notified you via email about posting the grade in Canvas to request a review of the grade. I will do my best to address your request within one week of the request. In case of travel or emergency I will notify you of the delay in reviewing the grade.

The overall evaluation of submitted activities includes, but is not limited to the following: quality of writing, organization, formatting, as well as the amount of analysis and synthesis, demonstration of critical thinking skills, adherence to guidelines, and submission on time.

COURSE EVALUATION

You will be invited to evaluate the course at the end of the term. Please participate in this valuable process. I also invite your comments throughout the course and read all comments, suggestions, and recommendations.

COURSE ACTIVITIES (Subject to Change)

ASSIGNMENT/Activity #	TYPE	TOPIC	VALUE
Assignment 1	Individual	Synthesis of research in specific topic area 1	20%
Assignment 2	Individual	Synthesis of research in specific topic area2	25%
Assignment 3	Individual	Synthesis, comments, discussions, etc. of lectures by selected guest speakers	20%
Create own project	Individual or in group	Topic of interest related to digital youth	25%
Class presentations of project	Individual or in group	Student selected topic of interest	5%
Readings, constructive class participation, communication with instructor, etc.	Individual	Whole course	5%

CITING SOURCES

I prefer APA style, but you may use your preferred standard style manual for citing sources.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	ACTIVITIES	Due
1/17	No class. Read the syllabus. Do an environmental scanning of MacArthur Foundation's Digital Media and Learning initiative.	See Readings list & explore Digital Media and Learning website (MacArthur)	None
1/24	Q&A about syllabus Topic: Digital media/learning and youth	Discussions of digital media/learning and youth (based on previous week's scanning)	Informal class presentation on parties involved in digital media and youth. Who should be concerned and why?
1/31	Youth Voices Role of United Nations	See Youth Voices websites on readings list	Class discussions

2/7	Research & studies of youth and digital media (social media)	Readings list	Discussions and criticism of research
2/14	Research & studies of youth and digital media (web search engines)	Readings posted on Canvas course site	Discussions and criticism of research
2/21	Research & studies of youth and digital media (digital libraries)	Readings on Canvas course site	*Assignment 1 Discussions and criticism of research
2/28	Children & youth and design of technologies	TBA	Discussions and criticism of research
3/7/17	Guest Speaker (Dr. Jamshid Beheshti) confirmed Dr. Bilal is in Oslo for CHIIR 2017 Conference	Youth and design of technologies; Digital literacy	Reading of materials assigned by guest speaker
3/14/17	Spring break		
3/21/17	Guest Speaker (Dr. Julie Hershberger) confirmed	Homeless/refugee youth and technologies	Reading of materials assigned by guest speaker *Assignment 2
3/28/17	Guest Speaker (Dr. Mega Subramanian) tentative	Disadvantaged Youth, health, and technology	Reading of materials assigned by guest speaker
4/4/17	Guest Speaker (Dr. June Abbas) confirmed	Youth and use of social media	Reading of materials assigned by guest speaker
4/11/17	Synthesis and discussion of guest speakers' lectures	Revisit guest speakers' recorded talks	*Assignment 3
4/18/17	Issues and challenges Course wrap up	TBA	TBA
4/25/14	Class presentations of projects	None	*Presentation slides

5/4/17: Project write up due by 11:59 p.m.

The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter and/or amend this syllabus, course schedule, and readings, as necessary. Students will be notified in writing and/or by email of any such revisions, alterations and/or amendments.

Readings and Exploring

Digital Media and Learning by the McArthur Foundation

Explore the site at, <https://www.macfound.org/programs/learning/>

Goals and Background at, <https://www.macfound.org/programs/learning/strategy/>

Digital Media and Learning (DML) Research Hub.

Has projects, research, publications, initiatives, etc. Explore the site at, <http://dmlhub.net/>

Children and the Internet. By Sonia Livingstone. Podcast.
<http://dmlhub.net/presentations/children-and-the-internet/>

Connected Learning Research Network (part of the DML project).

Explore the content of the page at, <http://clrn.dmlhub.net/blog>.
Click on **Resources** to watch **videos** of interest to you, or at, <http://clrn.dmlhub.net/videos>
Explore the Projects (youth and digital media, parents, libraries, classrooms, and other settings, <http://clrn.dmlhub.net/projects>

Digital Youth Research: Kids' Informal Learning with Digital Media (UC Berkley). Project findings on digital media and youth.

<http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/>

White Papers (Scan report)

Ito, Mizuko Ito et al. Living and Learning with New Media: Summary of Findings from the Digital Youth Project at,

<http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/files/report/digitalyouth-WhitePaper.pdf>.

Cities of Learning. LRNG website at, <https://www.lrng.org/>

Video based on Gazzaley's book:

Adam Gazzaley and Larry D. Rosen. 2016. *The Distracted Mind: Ancient Brains in a High-Tech World*. Based on the book published by MIT Press. See link to the book at,

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/distracted>

Video is at,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkesEzSn1zI>

Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University

Gasser, Urs et al. 2012. Youth and Digital Media: From Credibility to Information Quality. Located at, [http://dmlcentral.net/wp-](http://dmlcentral.net/wp-content/uploads/files/youthanddigitalmediacredibilityreport2.16.12.pdf)

[content/uploads/files/youthanddigitalmediacredibilityreport2.16.12.pdf](http://dmlcentral.net/wp-content/uploads/files/youthanddigitalmediacredibilityreport2.16.12.pdf)

Cortesi, Sandra, Gasser Urs et al. 2015. Digitally Connected: Global Perspectives on Youth and Digital Media. This is an **ebook** available for download at no cost at,

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2585686

Organizations, centers, and others

UNICEF's Voices of Youth. Explore at,

<http://www.voicesofyouth.org/>

https://www.unicef.org/explore_3888.html

web page: <http://www.voicesofyouth.org/> explore these topics:

Technology under **Topics:**

<http://www.voicesofyouth.org/en/sections/technology/pages/-replyforall>
and also **Discussions** option: Has many Topics (Refugees, Terrorism, Internet safety, social media, etc. voiced by Youth)

RErights. <https://rerights.org/>

Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University. <https://cyber.harvard.edu/>

McArthur Foundation. <https://www.macfound.org>

Pew Research Center: Internet, Science and Technology. <http://www.pewinternet.org/>

More items will be added throughout the semester.