COURSE DESCRIPTION
People use information constantly in their work and their everyday life. To do many activities from planning a trip, to completing complex work tasks people integrate information from a range of human, electronic and textual sources to complete tasks or make decisions. Before information professionals can provide services, design search tools and create taxonomies to assist people with information based tasks we need to have a robust understanding of how people identify their information needs, search for information through a variety of medium, and then use information. Human Information Interaction, which is also referred to as “Information behaviour” covers the range of activities related to this process of people interacting with information, frequently mediated by technology, including avoiding information, and serendipitous information encounters.

This course will examine how humans interact with information a variety of settings (healthcare, private and public organizations, academic institutions, etc.) using a range of devices. The focus will be to examine information interactions of individuals and groups, as well as interactions within organizations and communities. Key theories, models and frameworks developed to describe and understand human information interactions will be examined and assessed, and methods of collecting data will be compared. Emerging areas including examining information interactions in social media, in digital spaces and on mobile devises will be emphasized.

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES
INFO 5520; INFO 5530

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
• To introduce key theories, concepts and practices related to understanding Human Information Interaction in a range of contexts.
• To critically evaluate trends in Human Information Interaction research.
• Examine the complexities related to examining Human Information Interaction, and understand the range of methods and techniques to help increase understanding.
• To understand how Human Information Interaction research can be used to design more effective tools, systems or services.
LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate a detailed and holistic understanding of Human Information Interaction.
2. Critically assess and evaluate Human Information Interaction research.
3. Select and use appropriate theories and models to better understand particular contexts of Human Information Interaction.
4. Design and execute research targeted at better understanding Human Information Interaction to improve or change systems or services.

TECHNOLOGY USED
Students will use databases to search for research, and they will use statistical or qualitative software for the analysis of their data, and PowerPoint to design posters.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS
A diverse range of learning activities will included including seminar discussions, guest speakers, developing a research proposal, and completing a mini research study. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on, and critically evaluate trends in Human Information Interaction research, and identify tools and techniques to successfully examine Human Information Interaction in particular contexts. It is expected that students will come to class fully prepared to participate, discuss and complete activities related to the topic for the week.

LEARNING MATERIALS
There is no required textbook for this course. Assigned readings that are not available through Dalhousie will be made available for students.

METHODS OF EVALUATION
Detailed instructions regarding each assignment will be provided. Assessment of all assignments is directly related to attention to the instructions, clarity of expression and presentation, and evidence of significant analysis and reflection.

See also the SIM Grading Policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Project Part 1: Initial Research Question &amp; Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Project Part 2: Mini Study Proposal</td>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Project Part 3: Partial Analysis</td>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Project Part 4: Poster Presentation</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Project Part 5: Final Report</td>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation*</td>
<td>Full term</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</table>
* Participation: Marks will be based on active participation in class discussions and activities. Students will be responsible for presenting and leading the discussion of the critical analysis of a specific research articles at least once during the term. This will be organized in Week 2.

**CLASS POLICIES**

**Attendance**
Class attendance is required in all MI courses and is included in the participation mark. Attendance records will be kept by the instructor.

**Citation Style**
SIM courses use APA as the default standard citation style. Unless the instructor provides alternative written instructions, please use the APA citation style in your assignments to briefly identify (cite) other people’s ideas and information and to indicate the sources of these citations in the References list at the end of the assignment. For more information on APA style, consult Dalhousie Library website at https://libraries.dal.ca/help/style-guides.html or the APA’s Frequently Asked Questions about APA.

**Late penalties for assignments**
A penalty for late assignments will be assessed, unless prior permission has been given by the instructor to submit an assignment late, which normally will be for extended illness, medical, or family emergencies only (see below). Late submissions will be assessed a penalty of five percent per day, including weekends. Assignments will not normally be accepted seven days or more after the due date; in such cases the student will receive a grade of zero.

**Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence:**
Dalhousie University recognizes that students may experience short-term physical or mental health conditions, or other extenuating circumstances that may affect their ability to attend required classes, tests, exams or submit other coursework.

Dalhousie students are asked to take responsibility for their own short-term absences (3 days or less) by contacting their instructor by phone or email prior to the academic requirement deadline or scheduled time AND by submitting a completed Student Declaration of Absence form to their instructor in case of missed or late academic requirements. Only 2 separate Student Declaration of Absence forms may be submitted per course during a term (note: faculty, college, school, instructor or course-specific guidelines may set a lower maximum).

**SIM GRADING POLICY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>Demonstrates original work of distinction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>Demonstrates high-level command of the subject matter and an ability for critical analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>Demonstrates above-average command of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Demonstrates average command of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>Demonstrates acceptable command of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>Demonstrates minimally acceptable command of the subject matter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;70</td>
<td>Unacceptable for credit towards a Master’s degree.</td>
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ACCOMMODATION POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers experienced related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian human rights legislation.

Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation form.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of $75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to fully participate in the class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In general:

The commitment of the Faculty of Management is to graduate future leaders of business, government and civil society who manage with integrity and get things done. This is non-negotiable in our community and it starts with your first class at Dalhousie University. So when you submit any work for evaluation in this course or any other, please ensure that you are familiar with your obligations under the Faculty of Management's Academic Integrity Policies and that you understand where to go for help and advice in living up to our standards. You should be familiar with the Faculty of Management Professor and Student Contract on Academic Integrity, and it is your responsibility to ask questions if there is anything you do not understand.

Dalhousie offers many ways to learn about academic writing and presentations so that all members of the University community may acknowledge the intellectual property of others. Knowing how to find, evaluate, select, synthesize and cite information for use in assignments is called being “information literate.” Information literacy is taught by Dalhousie University Librarians in classes and through Dalhousie Libraries' online Citing & Writing tutorials.

Do not plagiarize any materials for this course. For further guidance on what constitutes plagiarism, how to avoid it, and proper methods for attributing sources, please consult the University Secretariat's Academic Integrity page.

Please note that Dalhousie subscribes to plagiarism detection software that checks for originality in submitted papers. Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a very serious academic offence that may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie, there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course; students should read the Policy on Academic Dishonesty contained in the Calendar.

Furthermore, the University’s Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student assignments be submitted in both written and computer readable format, e.g.: a text file or as an email attachment, and to submit any paper to a check such as that performed by the plagiarism detection
software. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and
the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand. Use of third-party
originality checking software does not preclude instructor use of alternate means to identify lapses in
originality and attribution. The result of such assessment may be used as evidence in any disciplinary
action taken by the Senate.

Finally:
If you suspect cheating by colleagues or lapses in standards by a professor, you may use the
confidential email: ManagementIntegrity@dal.ca which is read only by the Assistant Academic Integrity
Officer.

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Faculty of Management clarification on plagiarism versus collaboration:

There are many forms of plagiarism, for instance, copying on exams and assignments. There is a clear
line between group work on assignments when explicitly authorised by the professor and copying
solutions from others. It is permissible to work on assignments with your friends but only when the
professor gives you permission in the specific context of the assignment. University rules clearly
stipulate that all assignments should be undertaken individually unless specifically authorised.

Specific examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Copying a computer file from another student, and using it as a template for your own solution
- Copying text written by another student
- Submitting the work of someone else, including that of a tutor as your own

An example of acceptable collaboration includes the following:
- When authorised by the professor, discussing the issues and underlying factors of a case with
  fellow students, and then each of the students writing up their submissions individually, from
  start to finish.

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UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

ACCESSIBILITY
The Advising and Access Centre serves as Dalhousie’s Centre for expertise on student accessibility
and accommodation. Our work is governed by Dalhousie’s Student Accommodation Policy, to best
support the needs of Dalhousie students. Our teams work with students who request accommodation
as a result of: disability, religious obligation, an experienced barrier related to any other characteristic
protected under Canadian Human Rights legislation.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT
Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student
Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don’t follow this community expectation.
When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—
perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can’t be reached, or would be
inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is
fundamental to education. We stand for equality.

Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are
committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic
Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2).
RECOGNITION OF MI’KMAQ TERRITORY
Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi’kmaq Territory.

The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Class</th>
<th>Topics &amp; Assignments</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 - Jan 9</td>
<td>Introduction to the course; and the topic, and discussion of the syllabus.</td>
<td>No assigned readings</td>
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Week 7 - Feb 20

**BREAK**

Week 8 - Feb 27

**Health Information Seeking and Seekers**


Week 9 - Mar 5

**ISB and Academics – Humanities, Social Scientists, Scientists and Engineers**


Week 10 - Mar 12

**Children & Young Adults**

**Term Project Part 3 Due**


Spruijt-Metz, D., Hekler, E., Saranummi, N., Intille, S., Korhonen, I., Nilsen, W., ... & Sanna, A. Building new computational models to support health behavior change and maintenance: new opportunities in behavioral research. *Translational Behavioral Medicine, 1*-1-12. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 13 – Apr 2</th>
<th>Presentation of Posters</th>
<th>No assigned readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Project Part 4 Due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Project will be due April 6th</td>
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