**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT**

**INFO 5500 Information in Society**
**Fall 2023**

**Course Type:** In-person
**Instructor name/title:** Philippe Mongeon (he/him)
**Office**: Rowe 4032
**Contact info**: pmongeon@dal.ca
**Office hours**: You can book a virtual or in-person meeting with me anytime using this link.
**Course website**: https://pmongeon.github.io/information-in-society

## COURSE DESCRIPTION
Provides an introduction to the economic, political, social, and human dimensions of the information society.

## COURSE PRE-REQUISITES
None

## LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the general significance of information in contemporary society.
2. Identify contemporary issues and their relationship with information and the information field.
3. Provide an informed and critical perspective on information phenomena and processes.
4. Understand the nature and social roles of the information professions.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS
None

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS
Readings, in-class exercises and discussions, and invited speakers.

## LEARNING MATERIALS

## 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 Grading Policy.

| COMPONENT | DETAILS | DUE DATE | VALUE/WEIGHT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Engagement goal | Set your own engagement goals for the course | 15 September | 10% |

| 2. Analysis of an information setting | Analysis of an information setting | 29 September | 30% |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3. Mid-term engagement self-assessment | Check-in on your engagement with the course so far | 13 October | 5% |
| 4. Essay plan | Plan for essay + annotated bibliography | 27 October | 15% |
| 5. Essay | Essay on a topic related to the course. | 8 December | 30% |
| 7. Final engagement self-assessment | Self-assessment of engagement with the course | 8 December | 10% |

## INTEGRATION OF [MI Competencies](#)

| PROGRAM COMPETENCY | COURSE LEARNING OUTCOME | COURSE ASSESSMENT |
|---|---|---|
| Adaptation | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 2, 3 |
| Collaboration | | |
| Commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and decolonization | 1, 2, 3, 4 | |
| Communication | 1, 3 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| Digital and technological literacy | 2 | |
| Evidence-based practices | 3, 4 | 4, 5 |
| Leadership | 4 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| Learning | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| Management | | |
| User-centred design | 3 | |

## 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
MI 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.

## GRADING POLICY

| A+ | 90-100 | Demonstrates original work of distinction. |
|----|--------|---------------------------------------------|
| A | 85-89 | Demonstrates high-level command of the subject matter and an ability for critical analysis. |
| A- | 80-84 | Demonstrates above-average command of the subject matter. |
| B+ | 77-79 | Demonstrates average command of the subject matter. |
| B | 73-76 | Demonstrates acceptable command of the subject matter. |
| B- | 70-72 | Demonstrates minimally acceptable command of the subject matter. |
| F | <70 | Unacceptable for credit towards a Master's degree. |

## ACCOMMODATION POLICY FOR STUDENTS

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students on the Halifax campus who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD).
If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion please contact the Student Accessibility Centre. 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. Visit https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility/accommodations-/classroom-accommodation.html for more details.

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

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

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](mailto:ManagementIntegrity@dal.ca) which is read only by the Assistant Academic Integrity Officer.

---

**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.

**UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS**

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the [University Calendar](#) and the Senate.

### ACCESSIBILITY

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for matters related to student accessibility and accommodation. We work collaboratively with Dalhousie and King's students, faculty, and staff to create an inclusive educational environment for students. The Centre is responsible for administering the university-wide [Student Accommodation Policy](#) working across all programs and faculties.

### 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).

### INTERNATIONALIZATION

At Dalhousie, "thinking and acting globally" enhances the quality and impact of education, supporting learning that is "interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global in reach, and orientated toward solving problems that extend across national borders."

### RECOGNITION OF MI'KMAQ TERRITORY

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people. For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, or information about alternative territorial acknowledgements if your class is offered outside of Nova Scotia, please visit [https://native-land.ca/](https://native-land.ca/).

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).

### FAIR DEALING POLICY

The Dalhousie University Fair Dealing Policy provides guidance for the limited use of copyright protected material without the risk of infringement and without having to seek the permission of copyright owners. It is intended to provide a balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users at Dalhousie.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

| WEEK | TOPICS | READINGS |
|---|---|---|
| 2023-09-06 | *Introduction* | Course website, chapter 1 |
| 2023-09-13 | *What is information?* | Course website, chapter 2 |
| 2023-09-20 | *The information society* | Course website, chapter 3 Case 1 |
| 2023-09-27 | *The human condition in the information society* | Course website, chapter 4 Case 2 |
| 2023-10-04 | *Work in the information society* | Course website, chapter 5 Case 3 |
| 2023-10-11 | *Organizations as informational beings* | Course website, chapter 6 Case 4 |
| 2023-10-18 | *The information economy* | Course website, chapter 7 Case 5 |
| 2023-10-25 | *The attention economy* | Course website, chapter 8 Case 6 |
| 2023-11-01 | *Misinformation, disinformation, and fake news* | Course website, chapter 9 Case 7 |
| 2023-11-08 | *The public sphere and democracy* | Course website, chapter 10 Case 8 |
| Reading week | ***No class*** | |
| 2023-11-22 | *Informational justice* | Course website, chapter 11 Case 9 |
| 2023-11-29 | *Towards the knowledge society: a panel* | |