

# Extended Course Description

## INFO520

### 1. Description

Surveys the professional, social, ethical and legal issues that affect information service professionals and organizations. Addresses such topics as information law, access, ownership, and censorship. Studies professional organizations and the sociology of professions.

### 2. Exit Competencies

Prepares the student to:

- Understand the sociology of professions
- Internalize the rights and responsibilities of information professionals
- Know the professional associations in the information arena
- Initiate involvement with at least one relevant association
- Know and internalize professional codes of ethics in case problems
- Know the legal and quasi legal basis for copyright, censorship, information access, privacy regulation, and information control
- Create policy in compliance with relevant laws and regulations
- Understand the influence of culture on the design and use of information systems
- Identify societal issues involving information access, privacy, and censorship and be able to formulate organizational responses to them.

### 3. Course Content

Principal topics and the approximate number of sessions devoted to each are:

- Foundations of the social context of information service (.5)
- Sociology of professions (.5)
- Information profession associations (1)
- Professional ethics and codes of ethics in the information profession (1)

- Copyright law (1)
- Censorship and freedom of speech (1)
- Access to information and privacy (1)
- Regulation and control of information (1)
- Cultural influence on information systems design and use (1)
- The Americans with Disabilities Act and information users with special needs (1)
- Influence of society on access to information (1)

#### **4. Presentation and Evaluation**

A combination of lecture, discussion, student presentations and expert speakers. Assignments will include weekly reflection forms (journal entries), discussion of case studies, a report on a professional association, and preparation of a grant proposal. Evaluation will be based on these assignments.

#### **5. Course Materials**

Selected readings and Web sites.