SGR #3 - INFO 102 Social and Ethical Aspects of Informatics

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS  
Revision to General Education Requirements

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<th>Institution</th>
<th>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</th>
<th>Laurie Stenberg Nichols</th>
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<td>SDSU</td>
<td>Kurt Cogswell</td>
<td>Lewis F. Brown</td>
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Indicate (X) the component of the General Education Curriculum that the proposal impacts.

X System General Education Requirements

Indicate (X) the revision(s) that is being proposed (more than one may be checked).

X Addition of a course to the set of approved courses

Section 1. Provide a Concise Description of the Proposed Change

Add INFO 102 Social and Ethical Aspects of Informatics to the list of courses approved to satisfy SGR #3.

Section 2. Provide the Effective Date for the Proposed Change

Fall 2013

Section 3. Provide a Detailed Reason for the Proposed Change

Because informatics plays a critical role in many 21st century professions, it is important to introduce informatics courses into the SGR curriculum. This will encourage students to develop expertise in this important discipline, enhance their professional preparation, and enhance their ability to function as informed citizens in an increasingly information-driven world. This course in particular will focus on the latter enhancement.

Section 4. Provide Clear Evidence that the Proposed Modification will Address the Specified Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

SGR #3 goals and SLO’s are detailed below, along with specific means by which this course will address each goal and achieve each objective. The course description is provided here for reference.

Course description:

INFO 102 Social and Ethical Aspects of Informatics: A study of the social, political, economic and ethical implications of information and informatics on business and society. Other topics
include information ownership, intellectual property and the social construction of information.

SGR #3 goal: Students will understand the organization, potential, and diversity of the human community through study of the social sciences.

Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:

1. Identify and explain basic concepts, terminology and theories of the selected social science disciplines from different spatial, temporal, cultural and/or institutional contexts;
   Paper summaries will be used to assess student understanding of topics as they relate to societal and cultural impacts of informatics. Informatics will be studied and contrasted in a variety of social contexts including social media, health care, political, and legal/ethical.

2. Apply selected social science concepts and theories to contemporary issues;
   Two student term papers will be used to assess the understanding of the theories and concepts given in the classroom lectures and discussions. Contemporary issues such as social networks, health informatics, informatics and politics, and others will be discussed.

3. Identify and explain the social or aesthetic values of different cultures.
   Readings will address the social aspects of informatics and will be assessed with reading summaries and exam questions. Various identifiable subcultures differentiated by their approaches to informatics will be addressed, including youth/social media, political, and legal.

In addition, as a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of at least one of the following:

4. The origin and evolution of human institutions;
   NA

5. The allocation of human or natural resources within societies;
   Readings will address the resource allocation aspects of informatics and will be assessed with reading summaries and exam questions. Resource allocation processes in the health care system, the political system, and those driven by geographic information systems will be discussed.

6. The impact of diverse philosophical, ethical or religious views.
   Readings, their summary and final exam questions will be used to assess this SLO, with the emphasis being on the ethical/legal, rather than philosophical or religious.

Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes:
Required: #1, #2 and #3 At least one of the following: #4, #5, or #6

Section 5. Provide a Copy of all Course Syllabi and Other Supporting Documentation

Please see the following pages.
Course Syllabus
INFO 102, Social and Ethical Aspects of Informatics, 3 Credit Hours
Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department
South Dakota State University
Semester: To Be Determined
Time: To Be Determined
Location: To Be Determined

Instructor:
George Hamer, Ph.D.
Office: SDEH 121
Phone: 605-688-5721
Email: George.Hamer@sdstate.edu
Office hours: To be determined and by appointment

Catalog Description: A study of the social, political, economic, and ethical implications of information and informatics on business and society. Other topics include information ownership, intellectual property, and the social construction of information.

Course Description: This course provides a practical coverage of topics and resources relevant to informatics. Students will review real-world uses of informatics and study to impacts of this use on society. Through assignments and a course project, students will gain hands on experience in developing and applying informatics solutions.

Prerequisite: Students taking this course will have completed INFO 101, Introduction to Informatics and MATH 102, College Algebra or greater.

Description of Instructional Methods: Lecture, discussion, and readings.

Required Text: To be determined.

Course Content: Weekly assignments will consist of readings and reading summaries. In class lectures will introduce concepts from informatics and in class discussions will be a large part of the course. Classroom discussions will focus on the current reading(s) and the instructor will facilitate the discussion. In addition, two short term papers will be required of the student. The first paper will involve the interview of a subject on their use of information technology in the workplace and the second will involve tracking/recording your use of information technology for one week and a careful analysis of the social, political, economic, and ethical implications of your use.

Course Goals:
To gain knowledge of the impact of informatics on society.

System Goal #3: Social Sciences/Diversity – Students will understand the organization, potential, and diversity of the human community through the study of the social sciences. SLOs include 1, 2, 3, and 6

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Identify and explain basic concepts, terminology, and theories of the selected social science disciplines from different spatial, temporal, cultural, and/or institutional contexts;
2. Apply selected social science concepts and theories to contemporary issues;
3. Identify and explain the social or aesthetic values of different cultures;
6. The impact of diverse philosophical, ethical, or religious values.

Additional Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Gain familiarity with and appreciation for the wide variety of applications of informatics.
2. Demonstrate proficiency with data sources, standards, tools, applications, and systems relevant to informatics.
3. Apply techniques to obtain, manage, transform, analyze, and summarize results.

Course Form #11
AAC Feb2007
**Evaluation Procedures:** Reading summaries: 25%, Term papers: 15%, 2 Exams: 40%, Final Exam: 20%. A score of at least 90% of the total points will guarantee an A, at least 80% will guarantee a B, at least 70% will guarantee a C, at least 60% will guarantee a D, and below 60% is a F.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required. However, you will not be penalized for infrequent or excused absences. Excused absences are defined in the University attendance policy. You are responsible for everything covered or announced in class.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating—Directly copying from any source other than yourself, including but not limited to your classmates and online sources. It does not mean that you will not talk to other students about homework problems; however, you need to demonstrate your understanding of the problem by writing up the solution by yourself. Plagiarism—Offering as one’s own work the words, ideas, or arguments of another person without appropriate attribution by quotation, reference, or footnote. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a score of 0 for that particular assignment for all parties involved. More than one offense will result in a failing grade for the course AND formal reporting of the incident to the Division of Student Affairs.

**Freedom in Learning:** Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any courses of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should first contact the instructor of the course. If the student remains unsatisfied, the student may contact the department head and/or dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

**ADA Statement:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact Nancy Hartenhoff-Crooks, Coordinator of Disability Services (605-688-4504 or FAX, 605-688-4987) to privately discuss your specific needs. The Office of Disability Services is located in Room 065, the Student Union.

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