

# ICS 5: Global Disruption and Information Technology

University of California System-wide Course Syllabus

Fall 2020

## Instructor

[Professor Bill Tomlinson](#)

Throughout the course, you may see content created by or references to any of the three original course creators, Bill Tomlinson, Bonnie Nardi, and Don Patterson. However, this quarter Bill Tomlinson is the sole instructor, and all correspondence should be sent to the TAs and him, rather than to Professors Nardi or Patterson.

## Correspondence

We will send course announcements by email to the official course mailing list, therefore you are required to check your email regularly. Note that this mailing list goes to the email address that the registrar has for you. If you prefer to read your email on another account, you should set your account to forward your email to your preferred account.

If you have a question about the course content, we ask that you:

1. First, check the syllabus (the page that you are on right now).
2. If it's not in the syllabus, then check or post on the [Ask Us Anything discussion board](#). These discussion boards produce a record that can be used like a FAQ. Ask us anything!
3. If you have a question that isn't answered in the Ask Us Anything discussion boards, or that you would prefer not to ask publicly, you are always welcome to contact the teaching staff by email at [ics5.f20.staff@gmail.com](mailto:ics5.f20.staff@gmail.com). Since there are quite a few students in the course, for fastest response, please email the staff list first; we seek to reply within 24 hours. If after 24 hours they have not been able to address your concern, feel free to email Professor Tomlinson ([wmt@uci.edu](mailto:wmt@uci.edu)).

All members of the teaching staff will also be available for office hours via videoconference. Please email the teaching staff to set up a time to chat.

## Contact Information

All teaching staff email: [ics5.f20.staff@gmail.com](mailto:ics5.f20.staff@gmail.com)

Individual TA emails: TBD

Instructor email: Bill Tomlinson ([wmt@uci.edu](mailto:wmt@uci.edu))

## **Overview**

Explores how new forms of information technology (IT) may support transition to a sustainable civilization. Topics include design and implementation of IT systems, science of global change, online community building, and "green IT." Activities involve reading, writing, discussion, and final project.

## **Expectations of Students**

We expect you to watch all the videos, do all the readings, take all the quizzes, and do all other assignments.

## **Weekly Process**

Each module of the course will be released the previous week, Friday afternoon. You will not be able to see modules ahead of this schedule, but the syllabus provides an overview of the entire course.

## **Course Mechanics and Grading**

Course Website: All online course content will be available via the course website. Each week has a set of "modules." These modules include (1) "content pages" with written content, recorded videos, and links to readings and other media; (2) quizzes based on the content pages and/or other activities you will be asked to conduct; and (3) assignments that give you the opportunity to explore particular domains in more depth.

Not all modules count toward your grade; on the right hand side of each module for which there **is** a grade, you will see a due date and the number of points that module is worth.

Internet Access: You are responsible for verifying that internet access at your location is reliable.

User Account and Introduction: To participate in the online course materials, you must log in via your user account. We encourage you to add a personal introduction and picture to your account, and complete whatever other elements of your online profile you are comfortable providing.

Pre-Recorded Mini-Lectures: The course has numerous short "mini-lectures": 5–20 minute videos featuring one or more faculty members and/or invited guests.

Readings: There will be several readings or other content (interactive web sites, etc.) that you will be asked to read/engage with each week. We will refer to all content as "readings," even though some "readings" will be different forms of media (videos, websites, and so on).

Some reading will require you to be on the campus network to access. Please do not pay for these readings, as you can access them through your university library. Follow

the instructions on the UCI Library's website to get the VPN working: <https://www.lib.uci.edu/connect>. If you are a student on another campus, please check with your university library's website for instructions on logging into your campus VPN.

**Assignments:** Periodically throughout the course, you will be asked to engage with various different assignments based on the course materials.

**Quizzes:** Each week, you will be asked to answer one or more questions about recent course materials. Prompts may ask you to summarize a particular reading, answer questions based on discussions that took place during the panels, respond to one or more mini-lectures, or synthesize material across several of these media. All quiz questions count equally.

**Workload:** This course has a workload that is approximately equivalent to an offline course. In each week of an offline course, students typically attend ~3 hours of lecture and ~1 hour of section, read ~100 pages, and do approximately 4 hours of out-of-class preparation. According to the University of California, “the value of a course in units shall be reckoned at the rate of one unit for three hours work per week per term on the part of a student, or the equivalent.” Since this is a four unit course, we expect you will do approximately 12 hours of work per week. In an offline course, these 12 hours might be broken down as follows: 3 hours of in-class content (lecture/discussion), 4–5 hours of reading, and 4–5 hours of project work, assignments, or other preparation. Similarly, in this course, we expect that you will watch all the videos (~1 hour/week), do all the readings (~5 hours/week), take all the quizzes (~1 hour/week), and complete all the assignments (average ~5 hours/week).

**Intellectual Property:** The goal of this course is to make the world a better place, and to enable others to do so as well. Therefore, we encourage all teams to upload any and all content they produce with a [Creative Commons license](#). This will allow students in future offerings of this course, and others around the world, to build upon the work you have done.

**Grading:**

- Quizzes: 10%
- Comparison of Readings: 3, each worth 10%, total: 30%
- Climate Strike Assignment: 10%
- Wikipedia Assignment: 10%
- Political Candidates Assignment: 10%
- Meme Assignment: 10%
- Video Assignment: 10%

- Social Media Assignment: 10%

## **Policies**

**Respect:** This class involves significant online discussion of topics on which you and your classmates may have differences of opinion. You may also have opinions that differ from those of the instructors. Please be respectful of students, instructors, and TAs at all times.

**Academic honesty:** Please familiarize yourself with the latest academic honesty policy for your campus. The consequences of academic dishonesty (e.g., course failure and not learning the material) are not worth the small artificial benefits to your grade and the impugning of your character. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, it is always better to ask than to guess.

Links for academic honesty policies: [UC Berkeley \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), [UC Davis \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), [UC Irvine \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), [UC Los Angeles \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), [UC Merced \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), [UC Riverside \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), [UC San Diego \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), [UC Santa Barbara \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#), and [UC Santa Cruz \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#).

**Late Assignments:** Given the interdependencies among various parts of the course, late assignments will not be accepted.

**Incompletes:** We do not give incompletes. All students will receive a grade for the course.