



**Information Overload and Adaptive Minds**  
**Semester Year Spring 2023**

**Classroom and Class Time**, 1:30pm to 3pm on Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 13, Feb 20

**Jessie Chin**

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Dr. Chin is an assistant professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research programs aim at (1) advancing knowledge in cognitive sciences regarding evolving human interaction with the contemporary information technologies, and (2) translating theories in social and behavioral sciences to the design of sociotechnical solutions and interaction experience to promote health communication and behavior across the lifespan. As a translational cognitive scientist, she conducts both use-inspired basic and applied research to examine the interaction between human minds and complex information environments in both individual and collective levels.

**Course Description**

Given the rapid changes in technologies, we are facing information overload in our daily life. There is a need to understand how to adapt to information overload given the limited resources in our brain. This course will discuss the current theories of human behavior in information overload, including how we select, search, make sense, and learn; how certain information could gain more attention than others; how the technology makes us behave in certain ways; and how human can take advantages of technologies to manage our everyday behavior. We will discuss these behaviors from a lifespan perspective.

**Week-by-Week Topics**

**Week 1. The Extended Minds and Distributed Cognition**

We will talk about how human minds extend to everyday technologies and external environments to form coupling cognitive systems. The course will be composed of both lecture and discussion.

**Week 2. Information Proliferation and Misinformation**

We will talk about how information overload shapes human behavior, especially how certain information gains more attention than others. The challenge to combat misinformation will also be discussed. The course will be composed of both lecture and discussion.

### Week 3. Information Foraging

We will talk about how people select, search and make sense among a huge amount of information, and how people across the lifespan adapt to information environments. The course will be composed of both lecture and discussion.

### Week 4. Learning in the Wild

Grounded by both theories in cognitive psychology and information sciences, we will talk about how people learn on their own in the contemporary information environments across the lifespan. The course will be composed of both lecture and discussion.