

Syllabus: Introduction to Library Research

LAS I 170 CRN 25046; 1 credit

March 10, 2011 - May 09, 2011; online only

Wichita State University

Instructor:

Angela Paul, Assistant Instructor; Instruction and Outreach Librarian

E-mail: angela.paul@wichita.edu

Phone: 978-5084

WSU Library homepage: <http://libraries.wichita.edu/>

Course webpage: <http://libraries.wichita.edu/subsplus/subjects/LASI%20170>

Course Description

This course will take you through each step in the process of writing a term paper: writing a thesis statement, selecting appropriate sources, locating information in a variety of sources, organizing the information, and creating the bibliography. If you have a paper due in another class, it is recommended you use that topic as you research and locate information during this class.

Course Objectives/Students will be able to:

- ◆ write a defensible thesis statement
- ◆ identify, evaluate, and select academically acceptable print and electronic resources
- ◆ develop a research topic and construct an effective search strategy for electronic resources
- ◆ synthesize information from different sources to create a rough draft
- ◆ correctly identify parts of a citation
- ◆ create a bibliography in a recognized style
- ◆ participate in the research process up to the point of writing (but **not** including) a finished paper

Assignments

Weekly Logs

The log will help you evaluate your findings, see your progress throughout the class, and allow me to see how well you understand the research process. Six (6) log entries will be required. There will be designated databases to use in each log. You will find the form on Blackboard. The Log should be sent weekly to the instructor as an e-mail attachment. The instructor will make comments and return it to you. Use these comments to improve your research for maximum points on your log entries. **The last log is due by midnight on the last official day of class.**

Quizzes

Quizzes will be found in Blackboard. Quizzes will be removed from Blackboard **at midnight on the Sunday after the last class.**

Final Project

The Final Project will include a thesis statement, a bibliography of appropriate citations based on your thesis statement, and a rough draft or outline of a research paper. **The final project is due by midnight on the last official day of class.**

Class participation will be online through the Discussion Board on Blackboard. Most discussion topics will come from the assigned readings, tutorials, and other learning units.

Other requirements

You are required to monitor Blackboard and student e-mail account regularly for announcements, course material, and returned/graded daily logs. It is recommended you save your logs on portable memory (i.e. flash drive) or a personal computer.

Course Outline

Module 1: Starting your Research (Week 1)

- Survey
- Lecture: research strategies
- Reading 1: Badke chapter 1
- Reading 2: Riedling chapter 2
- EMPOWER module and quiz 1: Starting your Research
- EMPOWER module and quiz 2: Choosing your Topic
- Optional library tour coordinated with the LASI 170 F2F class at 12:30 PM: Meet in room 217 in Ablah Library.

Module 2: Search Strategies (Weeks 2-3)

- Weekly log 1: Library Catalog
- Weekly log 2: Academic OneFile
- EMPOWER module and quiz 3: Using the Catalog
- Reading 3: Booth chapter 5
- Reading 4: MLA Handbook chapter 1

Module 3: Finding Articles (Weeks 4-5)

- Weekly log 3: Research Library
- Weekly log 4: Any WilsonWeb database
- EMPOWER module and quiz 4: Finding Articles
- UC Tutorial modules 5 & 6 "Basic Search" and "Advanced Search"
<http://www.lib.uci.edu/how/tutorials/LibraryWorkshop/basic.html> and
<http://www.lib.uci.edu/how/tutorials/LibraryWorkshop/advanced.html>
- Reading 5 (optional): Keeran chapter 6
- Reading 6 (optional): Radford chapter 1
- "Peer-Review and Scholarly Publishing" (video) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twogpmM-Sfy>

Module 4: Writing a Thesis Statement (week 6)

- Weekly log 5: Harvester Article Finder search engine
- Reading 7: "Thesis Statements" by Ramage pp. 34-41
- Thesis Statement PowerPoint and quiz

Module 5: Writing Citations (week 7)

- Weekly log 6: Free choice
- Reading 8: "Plagiarism" by Lipson pp. 42-53
- EMPOWER module and quiz 6: Citing Sources

Module 6: Outlining (week 8)

- "Outlines" PowerPoint
- Final project due on official last day of classes

Grade Requirements:

NOTE: There will be NO FINAL EXAM.

ANOTHER NOTE: Each reading and discussion will count toward your grade. However, I do not want to set a fixed number of discussions before we even begin the class. The actual number of points for class participation will not be finalized until the end of the course to allow for flexibility.

Points are assigned as follows:

ASSIGNMENT		POINTS
Weekly logs (6 logs)	15 points each	90
Class participation		80
Survey and 7 quizzes	10 points each	80
Final project		70
Total points		320

Grading scale:

GRADE	PERCENTAGE RANGE	POINT RANGE	GRADE
A	93.00% 100.00%	298 320.0	A
A-	90.00% 92.99%	288 297.6	A-
B+	87.00% 89.99%	278 288.0	B+
B	83.00% 86.99%	266 278.4	B
B-	80.00% 82.99%	256 265.6	B-
C+	77.00% 79.99%	246 256.0	C+
C	73.00% 76.99%	234 246.4	C
C-	70.00% 72.90%	224 233.3	C-
D+	67.00% 69.99%	214 224.0	D+
D	63.00% 66.99%	202 214.4	D
D-	60.00% 62.99%	192 201.6	D-
F	0.00% 59.99%	0 192.0	F

Reading List

Required readings are from these books:

Badke, William B. *Research Strategies: Finding Your Way through the Information Fog*. 2nd ed. New York:

IUniverse, Inc., 2004. Print. (Z 710.B23 2004)

Chernow, Barbara A. *Beyond the Internet: Successful Research Strategies*. Lanham, MD: Bernan Press, 2007.

Print. (Z 710.C43 2007)

Keeran, Peggy. *Research within the Disciplines: Foundations for Reference and Library Instruction*. Scarecrow

Press, 2007. Print. (Z 710.R47 2007)

Lipson, Charles. *Doing Honest Work in College: How to Prepare Citations, Avoid Plagiarism, and Achieve Real*

Academic Success. Chicago Guides to Academic Life; Variation: Chicago Guides to Academic Life.:

University of Chicago Press, 2008. Print. (PN 171.F56 2008)

Radford, Marie L. Barnes Susan B. Barr Linda R. *Web Research: Selecting, Evaluating, and Citing*. 2nd ed.

Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon, 2006. Print. (ZA 4228.R33 2006)

Ramage, John D. Bean John C. Johnson June. *The Allyn & Bacon Guide to Writing*. 4th ed. New York:

Pearson/Longman, 2006. Print. (PE 1408.R18 2006)

Recommended Reading (optional)

These books provide useful information about using a library, the research process, and/or creating a research project. Some books are for specific fields of study. More materials may be found by searching the subjects “report writing,” “research methodology” or “internet research” and adding another topic such as “nursing” or “business.”

Dolowitz, David P. Steve Buckler and Fionnghuala Sweeney. *Researching Online*. New York : Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Print. (Call Number: ZA4228 .D65 2008)

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of

America, 2009. Print. (Call Number: PE1478 .M57 2009 in Quick Reference)

George, Mary W. *The Elements of Library Research: What Every Student Needs to Know*. Princeton: Princeton University

Press, 2008. Print. (Call Number: Z710 .G44 2008)

Healy, Karen. *Writing Skills for Social Workers*. London : Sage Publications, 2007. Print. (Call number HV29.7 .H43 2007)

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. 6th ed. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological

Association, 2010. Print. (BF76.7 .A46; in Quick Reference)

Thompson, Rick. *Writing for Broadcast Journalists*. New York: Routledge, 2005. Print. (Call number PN4784.B75 T48 2005)

Weiss, Edmond H. *The Elements of International English Style: A Guide to Writing Correspondence, Reports, Technical*

Documents, and Internet Pages for a Global Audience. Armonk, N.Y: M.E. Sharpe, 2005. Print. (Call number PE1421 .W39 2005)

Relevant University Policies and Services:

Office of Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services (Room 150 Grace Wilkie Annex) can provide assistance to students with special needs. If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical, or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned course work, DS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary for you. All information and documentation of your disability is confidential and will not be released by DS without your written permission. Some of the services offered include escorting, sign language interpreting, note taking, and typing. Contact the Office of Disability Services at 978-3309, or see their web page at <http://webs.wichita.edu/disserv/> for more information.

Drop/withdraw

The last day to drop this class and receive a full refund is the first day of class. The last day to withdraw from this class and receive a W is the second day of class. Students who simply stop participating remain officially enrolled and will be assigned a course grade.

Class cancellation

Class cancellation due to inclement weather will be announced on local radio stations. Call the college at 316-978-6633 for the automated school cancellation information, or check the WSU website at <http://wichita.edu/emergency> for announcements and information about emergency text-messaging. If cancellation occurs due to an instructor emergency, the instructor will make every possible attempt to make contact by one or more of the following methods: announcement on blackboard, post a sign on the door to the classroom, and/or e-mail each student.