LIBR 201: Strategies for Information Discovery
Section 1, Fall 2014
August 25, 2014 – December 3, 2014

Instructors

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Our office hours are set on the day of the class assuming you will be able to drop by before or after class. You may also request to schedule an appointment with either of us if the scheduled office hours do not fit with your schedule. Communicating by e-mail or twitter is usually quicker. Be sure to copy the other instructor when you write to one of us so that we are both in the loop. We will do our best to respond within 48 working hours. Our course hashtag is #LIBR201-14.

Course Description

LIBR 201. Strategies for Information Discovery (3) Broad-based approach to developing information-seeking strategies and skills for academic and work-related research. Emphasis on the process of research, effective search strategies, critical evaluation of information, emerging technologies and applications, and their use in research. Prerequisite: ENGL 102 or consent of instructor.

Course Objectives

On completion of this course, you will be able to:
- Demonstrate an awareness of how information is produced and disseminated in online and traditional formats.
- Demonstrate the ability to formulate a strategy for academic or workplace research.
- Choose and use efficiently the most appropriate resources for a research need.
- Evaluate sources of information critically and find information pertinent to the information need.
- Demonstrate awareness of how emerging technologies and applications may be used in research.
- Communicate results of research effectively and ethically.

Course Themes

Three broad themes are woven throughout this course in instructional content and assignments:
- Differences and similarities between academic and workplace research
- Role of technology in research and awareness of how it is changing research
- Critical evaluation of information and its sources

Class Supplies

Badke, William. *Research Strategies: Finding Your Way Through the Information Fog.* 5th edition. Bloomington, IN: iUniverse, 2014. Buy from the USC Upstate Bookstore, 864-503-5167 (online ordering form: http://www.upstatebookstore.com/buy_main.asp), iUniverse, Amazon, or other vendors. Paperback: ISBN 9781462010172, $17.22; E-Book: ISBN 978-1-462010189, $7.69 (pay attention to file types compatible with your reader when your order).

During some classes you will be listening to videos on the computer. Earphones/earbuds are strongly recommended. This class will regularly use a variety of technologies, so you are encouraged to bring your own device to class.

Prerequisite

ENGL 102, Composition II, or its equivalent is a prerequisite for this course. ENGL 102 introduces information literacy concepts and skills about research, databases and other resources that LIBR 201 will build upon.

Scope and Nature of Course Work

This course is designed to develop information literacy and research *skills* and to help you engage in the research *process.* The instructional materials, readings, quizzes and assignments are all designed to emphasize the processes involved. There will be some terminology and facts to remember, but often you will be developing skills by practicing and reflecting on them. Daily course work will include the following:
- Readings from the textbook and other sources. Keep up with the schedule since these readings form the "backbone" of content in the course.
- Online instructional materials. You will be assigned a number of videos, online modules, "library guides" and other online resources. These will expand on and supplement the text, and often lead you directly into the assignments.
- Quizzes. These will be completed in class on a weekly basis. They will cover required readings from the textbook and other assigned material, including classwork.
- Assignments. All assignments are process-oriented and four are designed to have you complete a research process from topic exploration to completed presentation. Detailed instructions for each assignment are provided in Blackboard. **All assignments are due on the day indicated unless otherwise specified by the instructors.**

Time Commitment

This is a 3 credit hour course. For each hour of faculty-directed instruction, you are expected to put in two hours of work on assignments, study, and supplementary reading. This means up to 2.5 hours of faculty instruction and 5 hours of student work per week. Every effort has been made not to exceed these guidelines. Bear in mind that research is often a messy process and that it sometimes takes longer than expected. If you find yourself spending much more time than the above guidelines suggest, however, please contact the instructor.

Class Schedule

The class is scheduled to meet in Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:00-3:30 pm in the Library Computer Lab 118 from August 25 through December 3.

Blackboard

Copies of this syllabus, all assignments, and grades will be posted on Blackboard.

Assignments with Percentage of Total Grade

Assignments should be submitted in print at the beginning of the class and on Blackboard.

Assignments (2) 30%
- Technology Assignment - 15%
- Plagiarism Assignment - 15%

Linked Assignments (4) 40%
- Topic Exploration - 10%
- Research Log - 10%
- Citation Searching- 5%
- Final Assignment - 15%

In Class Activities (7) 14%
- Personal Branding and Social Media Activity - 2%
- Website Evaluation - 2%
- Archives Activity - 2%
- Government Documents - 2%
- Digital Collections - 2%
- Copyright Activity - 2%
- Plagiarism Prevention Workshop - 2%

Participation/Quizzes 16%
- Agoge Game - 2%
- Weekly Quizzes - 7%
- Class Participation - 7%

Quiz Grades

Weekly quizzes will be administered in class and are graded. Completion of the Agoge Game with submission of your final score earns you a full 2%.

Participation

Participation in class is very important for us to understand how well you learn the material and is also a part of your grade. By answering questions, expressing your opinions and making appropriate inquiries both in class and with the Twitter hashtag, you will show your full engagement in class and encourage other students to be involved in the learning process.

Grading Scale

All assignments and the course grade are based on the following scale:

A   90-100
B+   87-89
B   80-86
C+   77-79
C   70-76
D   60-66
F   0-59

Assignments that are turned in late will be lowered by one letter for each day they are late.

Student Conduct

The basic provisions of the USC Upstate Code of Student Conduct for the Classroom can be found in the Student Handbook, p. 133. (Available at: http://www.uscupstate.edu/uploadedFiles/Campus_Life/handbook.pdf)
- Displays personal and academic integrity.
- Accepts responsibility for actions.
- Respects the rights and dignity of all persons.
- Maintains a learning-focused attitude.
- Refrains from conduct that adversely affects others.
- Follows specific requirements of faculty members.

Attendance

If you cannot attend class due to extenuating circumstances, such as sickness or emergencies, it is your responsibility to inform the instructors so they can assign make up work or assignments. Missing more than 3 classes will lower your grade by one letter.

If you miss 25% of the class, the highest grade you will be able to earn is a C. Respect your instructors and fellow students and prepare to come on class on time. If you are late more than 3 times, your grade will be lowered by 5 percentage points or half a letter grade.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the strictest standards of academic honesty. Each student should review the Code of Academic Integrity printed in its entirety in the USC Upstate Student Handbook. This code strictly prohibits bribery, cheating, lying, and plagiarism. Sanctions of Academic Integrity violations include, but are not limited to expulsion, indefinite suspension, definite suspension, reprimand, "x" assigned for final grade, "F" assigned for the course, "0" assigned for the assignment, additional assignments from the professor, etc. (See Student Handbook, pp. 134-135, available online: http://www.uscupstate.edu/uploadedFiles/Campus_Life/handbook.pdf)

Accommodations

In keeping with University policy, any student with a disability who requests academic accommodations should contact Disability Services at 864-503-5199 to arrange a confidential appointment with the Disability Services Coordinator. Students are encouraged to seek an appointment as early in the semester as possible, as accommodations are not provided retroactively. Letters of accommodation must be signed and printed on letterhead from the Disability Services office. It is the student's responsibility to provide these letters to professors in a timely manner so that accommodations may be put in place. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at http://www.uscupstate.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/default.aspx?id=9066.

Library Resources

Assignments for this class require using the resources and services of the USC Upstate Library, available at http://www.uscupstate.edu/library/. Our electronic databases are available to you off campus by using your username and password. You can search the online library catalog for both print and e-books. You can also use PASCAL Delivers and Visiting Patron services to borrow books from other South Carolina academic libraries and Interlibrary Loan to order articles to which we do not have access at USC Upstate. While you are always encouraged to contact your instructor should you have a question, we do have an Ask-a-Librarian service that includes chat, text, phone, and face-to-face service at the reference desk.

Technology Requirements and Problems

You will need access to a computer with an Internet connection and basic proficiency with computers, Microsoft Word and using an Internet browser. It is recommended that you also have knowledge of PowerPoint or another presentation application. Part of the purpose of the course is to introduce you to new applications and technologies, so a healthy curiosity and willingness to experiment is also desirable.

If you have trouble logging in with your username and password or have a problem accessing Blackboard or the Upstate web site, please contact the Information Technologies and Services Help Desk in Spartanburg at 864-503-5257. You can also report an issue through e-mail at http://www.uscupstate.edu/campus_services/it/its.aspx?id=38906.

If you are having a problem accessing a library database but everything else seems to be working, report it to Ask-a-Librarian. Librarians can tell you whether there is a problem with that particular database and report it to the people who can fix is the problem.

You are expected to troubleshoot any technology issues you may have and solve them yourself. If you need help solving a technology issue, please ask your peers, Information Technologies and Services, or finally, the instructors. You are also expected to have a back-up copy of any projects you work on for class to prevent loss of work.

Citations

You will need to cite your sources for several assignments in this course. The most important thing about citations is to find a consistent way to cite sources that allows the reader to get back to your sources. You must choose either the APA or MLA citation style and use it for this class throughout the semester. The Citation Styles Library Guide has detailed information on the major citation styles: http://www.uscupstate.libguides.com/citationstyles. Diana Hacker's Research and Documentation Online web site contains good summaries and specific examples for all of the major citation styles: http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/.

Course Calendar – Fall 2014

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard. Check the course schedule in Blackboard for the most up-to-date information.

Date	Topic Covered	Readings and Assignments
	LIBR 201 Course Outline	
Date	**Topic Covered**	**Readings and Assignments**
8/25	Course Introduction	Badke, Chapter 1, due 8/27
8/27	Information Age	**Topic Exploration Paper assigned: topic choice due 9/3, outline due 9/24, paper due 10/15;** Digital Citizenship articles, due 9/3
9/1	Labor Day. No class.	
9/3	Personal Branding and Social Media. Virginia Alexander, guest lecturer. In Class Activity	**Agoge Game, due 9/8**
9/8	Terms and Conditions Apply video screening	Badke, Chapter 2, due 9/15
9/10	Technology Tools Discussion	**Technology Tool assigned, due 9/22** Badke, Chapter 3, due 9/15
9/15	Resources and Information Literacy	Badke, Chapter 4, due 9/17
9/17	Background Research Strategies	Reminder: Topic Exploration Paper outline, due 9/24
9/22	Technology Tool Presentations Part 1	Reminder: Topic Exploration Paper outline, due 9/24
9/24	Technology Tool Presentations Part 2 (if needed) and Plagiarism 2.0 Video	Badke, Chapter 8.5-8.6, due 9/29
9/29	Ethical Use of Information **Plagiarism Prevention Workshop in class**	**Plagiarism Assignment assigned, due 10/8** Badke, Chapter 6, due 10/1
10/1	Website Evaluation	**Website Evaluation articles, due 10/6**
10/6	Website Evaluation- In Class Activity	Submit Plagiarism Assignments on Blackboard before class on 10/8 for presentations.
10/8	Plagiarism Presentations Part 1	Reminder: Topic Exploration Paper, due 10/15

10/13	Plagiarism Presentations Part 2 (if needed) and Ted Videos Introduction	Reminder: Topic Exploration Paper, due 10/15 Badke, Chapter 5, due 10/15
10/15	Search Strategy Review and Ted Videos Activity	**Research Log assigned, due 10/27**
10/20	Online Resources – Google Scholar, Advanced Search, Other Search Engines	**Citation Search assigned, due 11/3** Badke Chapter 9, due 11/3 Articles on Archives
10/22	Archives. Ann Merryman, Coordinator of Archives, guest lecturer- In Class Activity	Badke, Chapter 7.1-7.3, due 10/29
10/27	Infographics and Final Presentations	Badke, Chapter 7.4-7.8, due 11/3 **Final Presentations assigned, due 11/24** Reminder: Citation Search Assignment, due 11/3
10/29	Government Documents and Government Documents Activity	Reminder: Final Presentations, due 11/24 Reminder: Citation Search Assignment, due 11/3 **Interview with a Librarian assigned, due 11/10**
11/3	Advanced Citation Activity Citation Searching	Badke, Chapter 8.1-8.4, due 11/5 Digital Collections articles, due 11/10
11/5	Library Day; Interview with a Librarian	Badke, Chapter 10, due 11/17
11/10	Digital Collections- In Class Activity	Copyright articles, due 11/12 Reminder: Final Presentations, due 11/24
11/12	Copyright. Karen Swetland, Coordinator of Reference, guest lecturer- In Class Activity	Reminder: Final Presentations, due 11/24
11/17	Documentary Film Screening	Reminder: Final Presentations, due 11/24
11/19	Work period for Final Presentations.	Reminder: Final Presentations, due 11/24
11/24	Final Presentations Part 1	
11/26	Thanksgiving Break. No class.	
12/1	Final Presentations Part 2 (if needed). Comments about Finals.	
12/3	Course Evaluations	