LIS 660 Information Sources and Systems in Science

Kristen L. Anderson

Class meets Wednesdays 5:00pm - 7:40pm in HL A156
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description
Provides a theoretical and virtual introduction to resources utilized and the structure of information in the sciences.

Prerequisite: LIS 601

Program Learning Objectives
This course addresses the following objectives of the LIS Program, enabling students to:

1. To understand the philosophy, principles and ethics of library and information studies;
2. To understand the development and communication of knowledge;
3. To attain basic competencies and knowledge that are essential for providing, managing, and designing information services in a variety of information environments;
4. To understand the development and interrelationship of librarianship and information science;
5. To understand the theories and processes for selecting and organizing information sources;
6. To understand the theories and processes involved in retrieval, dissemination, and utilization of information sources;
7. To understand research techniques and methods of applying new knowledge as it becomes available

Course Objectives
By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. discern the similarities and differences between the science disciplines and those in arts, humanities and social sciences;
2. understand the principle means by which science information is created and disseminated;
3. gain insight into the approaches to gathering scientific information taken by scholars, students, and the lay public;
4. become familiar with the characteristics of the literature of the sciences;
5. apply principles of search strategy in seeking answers to reference questions;
6. improve search skill by documenting and analyzing their own search strategies;
7. understand the attitudes, knowledge and skills that are important in achieving accurate reference service;
8. gain experience in making informative presentations to colleagues on topics of interest to the profession.

Teaching Philosophy
In this course I seek to expose the student to situations/circumstances that they are likely to face in their professional careers. Being in the classroom provides an environment where they can critically evaluate responses and formulate their own philosophies through discussions and interactions with classmates, faculty, and library patrons.

Teaching Method
Primary emphasis is on familiarization with reference resources and group discussion. Oral and written assignments are designed to promote these activities. Assignment instructions are in a separate handout. Attendance and constructive participation are required. Occasional guest speakers will provide perspectives on certain topics.

Course Requirements

Optional Texts


Assignments & Grading
Reference Desk Field Experience & Report 15
Reference Study Project & Presentation 35
(Presentation = 25, Critiques 10)
Scholarly Communication Study 10
Final 10
Exercises 20
Class Participation 10
Total 100

Grading Scale
90-100=A 80-89=B 70-79=C 60-69=D 59=F

Due Dates
Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. One (1) point will be deducted each day for late assignments. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining notes and handouts from classmates and the instructor.

Refer to the written Instructions for Assignments packet. Read the instructions for each assignment and follow them closely. Your grade will depend on how well you follow the written instructions. Please do not use report covers or binders. Assignments must be typed except homework exercises.

Class Participation
The following are required: Attendance, assigned readings and exercises, examination of reference sources, joint work on projects and exercises, active class participation in responding to questions, offering constructive comments and observations, and verbally reacting to course topics. Full points will be given only if all criteria are met.

10 All search exercises handed in, frequently contributing to class discussions, frequently contributing to small group work, completing all class assignments, perfect attendance, encouraging others to participate in asking questions and making relevant comments during class discussions and lectures.
8-9 Perfect attendance, completing all class exercises and homework, regularly contributing to class discussions, frequently contributing in small group exercises, encouraging others to participate in making relevant comments during class discussions and lectures.
6-7 Complete homework and class exercises, near perfect attendance, occasional contributions to class discussions, frequently contributing in small group exercises.
4-5 All reference search exercises handed in, regular attendance, contributing once or twice to class discussions, regular contributions to small group work.
0-3 Three or more absences, incomplete exercises, no contributions to class discussions, regular contributions to small group work.
Technology Requirements
This course requires you to use a computer to produce all of the written assignments. PCs and Macs are available in the LIS and UH computer labs. You are also required to obtain and use your email account to subscribe to lis-stu (our internal mail list for students). If you don’t already have one, obtain an email account from Keller Hall and begin to use it immediately.

Students are expected to use the Internet to explore the issues presented in the course. This includes subscribing to at least two listservs and using services of the Internet Public Library (IPL). Students will also be directed to locate and study Web resources pertinent to the course topics.