LIS 661

Information Sources and Systems in the Humanities

Spring 2006

Instructor: Brian Richardson
Voicemail: 235-7340

Time: Mondays, 7:00 to 9:40
Office Hours: As arranged
Email: richards@hawaii.edu

Course Description: Lecture course on information structures of humanities disciplines, including fine arts, applied arts, theater arts, literature, music, religion, philosophy. Includes discussion of information cycle, print and digital reference services, information seeking research in the humanities. There is a field research component.

Prerequisite: LIS 601

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the history, philosophy, principles, policies and ethics of library and information science and technology;
2. Apply basic competencies and knowledge that are essential for providing, managing, and designing information services in a variety of information environments;
3. Demonstrate theoretical understanding of and basic competencies in storage, retrieval, dissemination, utilization and evaluation of information sources;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of administration applicable in libraries, archives, and information centers;
5. Demonstrate an understanding of research techniques and methods of applying new knowledge as it becomes available;
6. Demonstrate the professional attitudes and the interpersonal and interdisciplinary skills needed to communicate and collaborate with colleagues and information users;

Teaching method: Lecturing; collaborative class exercises; oral presentations; and search strategy analysis, field research.
**Course Philosophy:** The broad goal of the course is to help students acquire the ability to understand, and provide user-oriented reference service in the humanities. This includes learning to teach novice users how to search and how to ask the right questions in pursuit of information. The course emphasizes developing professional knowledge and skills in understanding information seeking and use for the purpose of designing reference services for humanities information. Active class participation is essential when discussing readings, search strategies, and the appropriateness of sources.

**Course Learning Objectives:** Students will seek to:

1. discern the similarities and differences in information structure and use between humanities disciplines and those in the sciences and social sciences.
2. understand the principle means by which humanities information is created and disseminated.
3. become familiar with the characteristics of the literature of the humanities disciplines and of their information structures.
4. gain insight into the approaches to humanities information taken by scholars, students, and the lay public.
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. develop grounded data for reference service design by documenting and analyzing user behavior.
9. complete a pilot study with users on some aspect of using information systems, including data instrument design, data gathering, analyses, and reporting.

**Required Textbooks** (Amazon prices indicated in brackets)

C.P. Stone, *The Two Cultures*, $15.99 ($10.87), Cambridge Univ. Press, 0521457300
Gaardner, *Sophie’s World*, $7.99, Berkeley Publishing Group, 0425152251
*The Bhagavad-Gita*, $9.00 Penguin, 0140449183
Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*, $6.99, Del Rey, 0345342968
Cahill, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, $14.00 ($10.50), Anchor, 0385418493
Recommended Textbook

Additional readings will be handed out in class or made available electronically.

Technology Requirements
This course requires you to use a computer to produce all of the written assignments. You are also required to obtain and use your free UH email account (or a commercial one if you prefer) to subscribe to lis-stu (our internal mail list for students).

Assignments and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area report and Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie Review</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web page review</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural/Scholarly Event Review</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Review</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale: 90-100 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D
Course Schedule - LIS 661, Spring 2006

January 9th - Week 1: Introduction

January 16th - Holiday

January 22nd - Week 2: Humanities and Liberal Education
   Reading: C.P. Stone, Two Cultures

January 29th - Week 3: Philosophy
   Reading: Gaardner, Sophie’s World, from beginning to Berkeley

February 6th - Week 4: Philosophy (continued)
   Reading: Gaardner, Sophie’s World, Enlightenment to the end
   • Area Presentation on Philosophy

February 13th - Week 5: Religion
   Reading: The Bhagavad-Gita
   • Area Presentation on Religion

February 20th - Holiday

February 27th - Week 6: Literature
   Reading: Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451
   • Area Presentation on English Literature

March 6th - Week 7: Literature (continued)
   Reading: Calvino, The Uses of Literature (Part 1)
   • Area Presentation on Poetry

March 13th - Week 8: Literature (continued)
   Reading: Calvino, The Uses of Literature (Part 2)
   • Area Presentation on World Literature
   • Web Review Due

March 20th - Week 9: History
   Reading: Loewen, Lies My Teacher Told Me, beginning to chapter 4
   • Area Presentation on European History
March 27th - Week 10: History (continued)
   Reading: Loewen, *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, chapter 5 to end
   • Area Presentation on American History

April 3rd - Week 11: Linguistics
   Reading: to be determined
   • Area Presentation on Linguistics
   Cultural/Scholarly Event Review due

April 10th - Week 12: Art History
   Reading: Berger, *Ways of Seeing*, Chapters 1 to 3
   • Area Presentation on History of European Art

April 17th - Week 13: Art History (continued)
   Reading: Berger, *Ways of Seeing*, Chapters 4 to end
   • Area Presentation on History of European Art

April 24th - Week 14: Music and Theatre
   • Area Presentation on Music and Theatre
   Classroom Review due

April 31st - Week 15: The Humanities
   Reading: Cahill, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*

May 1st - Week 16: Review and Conclusion
   Reading: Letters from a Stoic (photocopy)
Movie Review (15%)
Write a two to three page paper reviewing a movie that connects to the humanities and provide a short (5 minute) presentation on the movie (including a video clip). Imagine that you are writing the review for a humanities instructor. Focus on how the movie might be used in a humanities class, provide suggestions for additional research and library resources. The movie must be one of the top 100 movies in Time’s list from 2005. Movie presentations will occur throughout the course.
Due date will be determined.

Webpage Review (15%)
Locate and write a short review a specialized webpage with a humanities focus. How can this page be best used in a humanities course? What concerns should a user have about the content of the page? How could this page be improved? The review should be two to three pages. Screen shots can also be included as an addendum.
Due March 13th.

Cultural/Scholarly Event Review (15%)
Attend a cultural or scholarly event approved by the instructor and analyze the humanities component. What were the educational goals of the event? What event could you organize that would offer an opposing viewpoint? How could a library have helped with the event?
Due April 3rd.

Classroom Review (15%)
Sit in on a class presentation in the humanities and pay attention to the resources that are used by the instructor. While the encounter will be limited to a single class, imagine how a library and librarians could improve the class. Make sure that you get the permission of the instructor to sit in on the class.
Due April 24th.
Humanities Area Report and Presentation
LIS 661, Spring, 2006

Study the reference and library resources appropriate for the assigned field of humanities. The goal is to offer an analysis of the field and offer some suggestions to an imagined patron.

One very useful resource created by the UH Manoa Library can be found at http://www.hawaii.edu/emailref/humanities/index.html

The due dates for area report presentations can be found on the course schedule.

The assignment consists of three parts:

1. A single-page, double-sided ready reference guide on the subject
   Evaluation will be based on the quality of the content and of the presentation
   Copies should be made available to all members of the class.

2. class presentation
   Roughly 30 to 45 minutes, plus questions
   introducing the class to the humanities field and its resources

3. written report
   two to three page paper describing the process and the character of what was found.
Some suggested questions to consider:

How is the field distinct from other fields in the humanities?

What are the dominant perspectives in the field?

What kind of competing perspectives could a patron look for?

What are some sample essay questions and reference questions that a patron might have?

What are some topics that are being discussed by humanities scholars in that field (listservs, mailing lists, etc.)?

What kinds of sources are available
   for secondary school students
   for junior undergraduates
   for senior undergraduates
   for graduate students
   for teachers (at each of these levels)

Any contrapuntal suggestions?