LIS 694: Research Methods

Instructor: Lala Hajibayova  
Semester & year: Summer I, 2017  
Email: lhajibay@hawaii.edu  
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to inquiry and the array of quantitative and qualitative research methods commonly used in library and information science. It is an introduction to basic and applied research in LIS, but assumes no background in research methods or statistics. The course provides a general overview of the ways that LIS researchers collect information about empirical phenomena. Special emphasis is on how we can develop findings that are trustworthy and useful for our theoretical and practical understanding of Internet technologies. This course also provides a foundation for locating and evaluating scientific, technical, business, and government quantitative and textual information and for applying research in a variety of settings.

By the end of the semester, you will be able to:
- Understand the nature of scientific inquiry, the conduct of research, multiple methods of collecting, managing, and analyzing evidence (data), and the relationship between theory, method, and evidence;
- Understand how ethical behavior is essential for the conduct of science;
- Provide a basis for an informed and critical evaluation of the research literature in the field, including how to read a research report and report research results;
- Locate and use information about scientific research and primary and secondary data resources, including data analysis and descriptive statistics;
- Provide the foundation for designing and conducting future research in the field of library and information science.

Professional expectations:
All students in the course are expected to become familiar with and adhere to the Professional Expectations posted at http://www.hawaii.edu/lis/students/professional-expectations-notice/

Teaching method & materials:
This is a 100% online asynchronous course. Module materials will be become available on Sunday mornings, the week before they are scheduled. For example, the module scheduled for week 2 will become available in Laulima on Sunday of week 2 and will be available until the end of the semester. This will allow you to complete all readings prior to the start of the official week. A “Module” in Laulima represents a “Module” in the syllabus Course Schedule. Some Modules are covered over a two-week period. For such modules, all materials will be released at the same time. It is highly recommended you complete all readings and lectures during the first week and work on your assignments and other graded coursework on week two.

A week is defined Monday through Sunday for class purposes.
**Required and optional texts:**
There is no textbook requirement for this course. All reading will be available through Laulima course management tool.

*Optional:*


**Course assignments and guidelines**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CITI Test</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnographic Study</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Content Analysis</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey Research</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project Presentation &amp; Peer Project Evaluation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Late Submissions**
In fairness to students who turn assignments on time, late assignments will be penalized by lowering the earned grade one level for each day that the assignment is late.

**Academic Dishonesty**
There is more to avoiding plagiarism than simply citing a reference. Each student should be familiar with the University of Hawaii policy available at: [http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm](http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm)

**Incompletes**
Each student is expected to complete all coursework by the end of the term. A grade of incomplete [ I ] will be assigned only when **exceptional circumstances warrant**.

**Note:** If you need reasonable accommodations because of the impact of a disability, please contact Kokua Program (V/T), located at the Queen Lili’uokalani Center for Student Services (room #013) or by phone: 956-7511 or 956-7612.

**Grading Scale**
Grades will be assigned according to the UH Grading Policy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100-98</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97-94</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62-60</td>
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Technology requirements
Students must be familiar with basic computer operations (e.g., copying and printing files, moving among directories and subdirectories), logging on to a network, creating and establishing connections to the Internet (i.e., modem, Wi-Fi, etc.), using the Internet to access and interact with course software, uploading and downloading files, accessing audio and video course contents and using word processing, presentation, and spreadsheet software programs.

Online Attendance Policy
Online courses are conducted on the premise that regular attendance (students logging into the Blackboard Learn learning management system) is expected. The number of logins or length of time students spend in the online course may vary on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis depending on participation requirements listed in the course syllabus. Attendance is therefore measured both by virtual presence in the online course and satisfying the specific criteria for course participation. If students anticipate an absence from the online course due to technical or medical reasons, they should consult with the instructor individually. In the event the absence was due to illness or injury, verification from the medical professional treating the illness or injury should be presented to the instructor.

Preferred Citation Style for Assignments
Preferred citation style is American Psychological Association (APA) citation and formatting style. The suggested manual is the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th ed. (Washington, DC: APA, 2009). Students should refer to this style guide for formatting, structure and design of the written format of papers and assignments where citation is necessary.

Online Student Conduct and (N)etiquette:
Communicating appropriately in the online classroom can be challenging. In order to minimize this challenge, it is important to remember several points of “internet etiquette” that will smooth communication for both students and instructors:

- Avoid language that may come across as strong or offensive. Language can be easily misinterpreted in written electronic communication. Review email and discussion board posts before submitting. Humor and sarcasm may be easily misinterpreted by your reader(s). Try to be as matter-of-fact and professional as possible.
- Follow the language rules of the Internet. Do not write using all capital letters, because it will appear as shouting. Also, the use of emoticons can be helpful when used to convey nonverbal feelings.
- Consider the privacy of others. Ask permission prior to giving out a classmate's email address or other information.
- Keep attachments small. If it is necessary to send pictures, change the size to an acceptable 250kb or less (one free, web-based tool to try is picresize.com).
# Course Schedule (subject to revision with advance note)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 1.</th>
<th>Introduction to the course. What is research &amp; research process? The conduct of science and ethical behavior.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5/22-5/28</td>
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**Required Readings/Activities:**


**Recommended:**


UH IRB requirements: [https://www.hawaii.edu/researchcompliance/](https://www.hawaii.edu/researchcompliance/)

AoIR.org ethic documents: [https://aoir.org/reports/ethics2.pdf](https://aoir.org/reports/ethics2.pdf)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due:</th>
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<tr>
<td>CITI test, 5/28, 11pm</td>
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**Module 2**
**Week 2**
**5/29-6/4**

**Ethnographic analysis: What is ethnography?**
**Ethnographic studies of the Internet.**

**Required:**


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**Recommended:**


**Ethnographic Study, June 4th, 11PM**
features of websites. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 25, 544-553


Recommended:


Due:

Web Content Analysis, June 18th, 11pm

| Module 5.  
| Week 5  
| 6/19-6/25  
| Week 6  
| 6/26-6/30  |
| Survey Research Methodology. Questionnaire design. Interviewing. Analyzing & Presenting Results. |

Required:


| **Due:** | **Research Project Presentation, June 28th, 11PM &**  
|          | **Peer Project Evaluation, June 30th, 11PM**  
|          | **Survey Research, June 30th, 11PM** |


**Recommended:**  