Research Methods  
LIS 5713

University of Oklahoma, School of Library and Information Studies  
Fall 2012  
Online through Desire to Learn (D2L)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Description from the Course Catalog: Prerequisites: 5023, 5033, 5043, 5053. Methods of investigating library and information problems; evaluating research studies in library and information science; developing original research designs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. Define and appropriately use the concepts and language of research  
2. Understand and evaluate reported research in library and information studies  
3. Identify and provide examples of major research methodologies  
4. Define the issues of validity and reliability of measurement, and of the appropriate use and generalizability of research findings  
5. Identify various data sources and techniques of data collection and analysis  
6. Discuss ethical problems researchers confront at every juncture of the research process  
7. Prepare a research proposal  
8. Apply research principles to issues relevant to library and information studies

REQUIRED TEXT


DESIRE TO LEARN

Course materials such as information and assignments will be posted on learn.ou.edu

GRADING SCHEME

A = 90-100 percent  
B = 80-89 percent  
C = 70-79 percent  
D = 60-69 percent  
F = 59 percent and below
ASSIGNMENTS | Points | Due
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CITI | 5 points | Due Aug 27
Data quiz | 5 points | Due Sept 4
Sampling and Inferential Stats quiz | 5 points | Due Sept 10
Qualitative analysis assignment | 5 points | Due Sept 17
Survey assn. | 10 points | Due Oct 1
Focus group assn. | 10 points | Due Oct 15
Experimental design assn. | 10 points | Due Oct 29
Topic assn. | 5 points | Due Nov 5
Content analysis assn. | 10 points | Due Nov 12
Journal assn. | 5 points | Due Nov 26
Proposal | 25 points | Due Dec 10
Participation | 5 points | All term

100 points total

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 20</td>
<td>Intro and Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>Data, measurement, variation, descriptive statistics, data displays</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 4</td>
<td>Sampling and Inferential Statistics</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 10</td>
<td>Qualitative data</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 17</td>
<td>Surveys</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sept 24</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>Interviews and Focus Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Experimental Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>Finding a topic, Content analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Experimental design assn. due</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Reviewing the literature</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>(Nov 21-25 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Putting it all together into a Research Proposal</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Dec 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Final Proposal due</td>
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Late Work
Materials are expected to be turned in by **11:59 pm** on the due date. Reasonable accommodation will be made for late work that is the result of illness, family emergency, or other unusual event. Late work is subject to a 10% grade penalty. Work over one week late will not be accepted for credit unless arrangements have been made with the instructor.

CLASS POLICIES

Appropriate Communication
Electronic venues (such as e-mail, discussion boards, chat rooms, etc.) are used regularly as part of professional practice. It is expected that the tenor of discussion in electronic communication
be that of colleagues. An important purpose of discussion board transactions is to value the various opinions, stances, and ideas of one's colleagues. Virtual communication lends itself quite easily to an artificial sense of "private conversation" - it is always wise to think twice before you post.

Student evaluation of course and instruction
At the end of the term, each student will be asked to complete an evaluation form that elicits opinions about the quality and relevance of course content and the quality of instruction. The instructor will not see course evaluations until after grades have been turned in to the Registrar's office. This student input is used by the instructor for improvement of teaching and by the School for annual assessment and tenure and promotion decisions among its regular faculty and for rehiring decisions among adjunct faculty. It is important that you be careful and accurate.

RELATED POLICIES

Grades of Incomplete
The University of Oklahoma has strict conditions under which a student is given an incomplete in a regularly scheduled, letter-graded course. A grade of Incomplete (I) will be given only for a justifiable reason (due to unavoidable circumstances, not lack of planning on the student's part) and only if the student is passing the course. It is the responsibility of the student to request a grade of I and to meet with the instructor as early as possible to determine the requirements for completing the course. Any incomplete granted must be removed by the deadline specified by the instructor. The time limit set for removal of an incomplete will take into account the circumstances of the situation but may not exceed one calendar year.

Absence for religious holidays
“It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.” (Section 3.13.2, The Faculty Handbook). Students who plan to observe a religious holiday should notify the instructor as soon as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements for class work or rescheduling of examinations.

Reasonable accommodations
The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate educational opportunities. Students requesting accommodations are required to contact the Office of Disability Services. This office accepts requests from students for reasonable accommodation after the student has self-identified as an individual with a disability. The Office of Disability Services on the Norman campus is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405/325-3852 or TDD only 405/325-4173. On the OU-Tulsa campus, students should contact the OU-Tulsa Student Affairs located in Room 1C 53.
Codes and policies of behavior
To protect its faculty and students, the School fully subscribes to the University's codes, policies, and procedures involving academic misconduct; grievances; sexual, racial, and ethnic harassment; and discrimination based on disability. You should acquaint yourself with both your responsibilities and your protections. Links are available from http://www.ou.edu/provost/pronew/

University of Oklahoma’s Position on Academic Integrity:
Quoted From: http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Professors have to obey rules of honest scholarship, and so do students. Here are the basic assumptions about academic work at the University of Oklahoma:

(1) Students attend OU in order to learn and grow.
(2) Academic assignments exist for the sake of this goal.
(3) Grades exist to show how fully the goal is attained.
(4) Thus, all work and all grades should result from the student's own effort to learn and grow. Academic work completed any other way is pointless, and grades obtained any other way are fraudulent.

Academic integrity means understanding and respecting these basic truths, without which no university can exist. Academic misconduct -- "cheating" -- is not just "against the rules." It violates the assumptions at the heart of all learning. It destroys the mutual trust and respect that should exist between student and professor. Finally, it is unfair to students who earn their grades honestly.

UOSA Honor Pledge

The University of Oklahoma Student Association passed a resolution encouraging the use of an integrity pledge on all major assignments. The Pledge reads: On my honor, I affirm that I have neither given nor received inappropriate aid in the completion of this exercise.