Welcome to Arts & Science 2120: Information Search, Evaluation and Use

For more information about offerings of this course, please contact: leaf.7 AT osu DOT edu

In this course, we take an interdisciplinary approach to unpack the nature of information and informal research. The primary assumption is that digital information literacy is not a set of skills, but encompasses several different ways of thinking and problem-solving. By the time this course is complete, you will achieve these core content objectives:

- Understand and differentiate between content types in the information cycle
- Employ sophisticated online search tactics to meet a variety of information needs
- Critically evaluate information and information sources
- Examine your own information practices through a critical lens

The activities in this class are designed to help students become more effective and thoughtful searchers and consumers of digital information. It also sets the groundwork for ARTSSCI 2121: Academic Online Research.

There are no prerequisites for this course, but you should be comfortable using a web browser, willing to check your email often, and expect to use both familiar and unfamiliar technology to a significant extent.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This course was designed under the evidence-based philosophy that real learning is accomplished by a variety of activities, including solving open-ended problems and interacting with others in the course. You’ll need to be engaged on a regular basis in order to be successful as this course is not self-paced; assignments are due weekly and there is a mandatory discussion board component.

TEXTS, MATERIALS & SOFTWARE

All required texts (defined broadly as visual or audio media in addition to readings) and activities are online, but you might need to find physical materials in the library to complete certain assignments. You will also need to make sure you have the following software:

- Adobe Reader or another PDF viewer
- Microsoft Word 2007 or later / OpenOffice 3.4 or later (free)
- Internet Explorer 9.0 or Firefox 7.0 or higher

CARMEN

Carmen is the learning management system used to facilitate online and hybrid courses at the Ohio State University. You can access this course by logging into:

http://carmen.osu.edu/

This class will be listed as “ARTSSCI 2120 – Info Srch Eval Use (#####)"
HOW TO SUCCEED

To do well in this course, you should:

- suspend your assumptions before responding
- treat feedback as a dialogue
- read everything carefully
- submit work on time

The work load in this course is designed in accordance with the policy set forth by the OSU Board of Trustees: (1) One credit hour shall be assigned for each three hours per week of the average student's time, including class hours, required to earn the average grade of "C" in this course.

GRADING

Your course grade will be calculated out of a total of 1000 points. See details for each graded item under ASSIGNMENTS and when they're assigned in the COURSE SCHEDULE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>UNIT POINTS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (25%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Review Quizzes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Review</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dropbox (47%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narratives</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>45 / 85</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wikipedia Selection</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarian Consult</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search Case Studies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30 / 80</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Case Studies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40 / 90</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forums (28%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forums</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL:</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
<td>Discretionary</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Typically, an assignment from each category is due weekly. 20% of assignment points will be deducted each day it is late. Lacking a presence in the course or missing ANY assignment without making prior arrangements may result in up to an additional 10% point penalty.

Here's how points align with the OSU Standard Grading Scale (condensed):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>895-1000</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A- to A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>795-894</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B- to B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>695-794</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C- to C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>595-694</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D to D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-594</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASSIGNMENTS

Scavenger Hunt

The first week of the course contains a Scavenger Hunt that must be completed in order to unlock the course. It is worth 40 points.

Quizzes

These are multiple choice tests primarily designed to assess comprehension and reinforce concepts from the texts. They are open book and you will have (2) attempts to ace each of them. While they’ll focus on the week’s reading, there may be materials from other readings up until that point. Grading and feedback is automated. Each quiz is worth 30 points.

The last quiz is a comprehensive review worth 70 points. It is longer and more challenging than the other quizzes, and you will only be allowed (1) attempt.

Dropbox

Narratives

The first narrative is worth 45 points and meant to help you gain awareness into your information behavior as well as give the instructor a sense of your current research skills. You will also receive feedback on your writing and what expectations will be moving forward in the course.

The last narrative is worth 85 points and designed to help you reflect on everything you’ve learned as well as to help the instructor gauge your understanding of the material as you depart the course. Both are written assignments and a rubric is used to assist in grading both of them.

Wikipedia Selection

You will select a Wikipedia article of interest to help you complete later assignments. It must meet certain requirements, and it is likely you’ll need to communicate frequently with the instructor to ensure that your article is suitable for course needs. It is worth 60 points.

Librarian Consult

While this is an online course, you will need to contact a librarian by phone, face to face, or in some other live environment to help you with an assignment and learn more about library services. This consultation is worth 40 points upon receiving proof of your interaction. You will share your experience in the Forums.

Case Studies

Case studies are short response assignments designed to help you unpack and skills in a controlled environment. Points are tiered for each type of case study as you are expected to improve from one case study to another. You will only have (1) attempt per assignment, and each is graded using a rubric. The set of four case studies are worth 240 points altogether.
The Forums comprise the major social component of the course and are structured to help bring all of your activities into a larger context by way of sharing the work you’ve done, strategies you’ve implemented, and engaging with the critical readings.

You should plan on posting something at least once a week. Using the forums to solicit or give help to students in Chatter is also encouraged.

Every week, including the Forums assignment that’s part of the Week 1 Scavenger Hunt, you will be given a prompt or instructions on what to post. There is a different forum for each week.

To receive full credit on these weekly assignments, your post(s) must meet the following criteria:

- follows instructions / relevant to prompt
- no less than 250 words (craft your message in a Word document)
- formally cite your sources
- exercises Netiquette (below)
- adheres to Writing Policy (see next section)

Participation each week is worth 40 points for a total of 280 points. As you might have inferred, these points are essentially PASS/FAIL given the minimum requirements listed above.

Netiquette

(The following adapted from Communication & Discussion Board Netiquette Rules, Southeastern Oklahoma State University)

Distance conveys a degree of anonymity, and as a result, many people feel less inhibited in online situations than in their everyday lives. This lessening of inhibitions sometimes leads people to drop their normal standards of decorum when communicating online. Use following guidelines when communicating online:

- If someone directly asks you a question or of the class, respond within 2-3 days.
- Read existing follow-up postings and don’t repeat what has already been said.
- Inappropriate and/or offensive language, especially comments that might be construed as racist or sexist, are not appropriate and will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- Do not use all caps in an online environment. Using all caps is considered SHOUTING.
- Remember that there are other human beings reading your postings, so treat everyone with respect.

Extra Credit

Superb contributions to the Forums beyond what’s required may result in extra credit, including active and regular participation in the Chatter forum. The amount of extra credit is at the instructor’s discretion. There may be additional opportunities for extra credit as well. No more than 10% total will be rewarded.
WRITING POLICY (Adapted from Walvoord’s Policy on ESWE, University of Notre Dame)

All of the assignments have some sort of written portion to it. Generally, while you should seek to develop and use your own style, you are still expected to write in complete sentences in a structured way as well as use both correct punctuation and capitalization. Please use this as a checklist before you submit your work:

- Avoid run-on sentences and fragments
- Sentence sense (words omitted, scrambled, or incomprehensible)
- Spelling (a typo is a misspelling---always proofread)
- Documentation: formatting of footnotes, and citations

How many violations are too many, and how much will they affect your grade? I can’t give an exact rule, but you are expected to produce professional-quality work. Plagiarizing is never acceptable and you may receive zero points as well as additional sanctions if you do.

Fallacies (The following is excerpted from the Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill.)

In addition to language standards, basic argumentation skills are also expected. Most academic writing tasks require you to make an argument—that is, to present reasons for a particular claim or interpretation you are putting forward.

You may have been told that you need to make your arguments more logical or stronger. And you may have worried that you simply aren’t a logical person or wondered what it means for an argument to be strong. Learning to make the best arguments you can is an ongoing process, but it isn’t impossible: “Being logical” is something anyone can do, with practice.

Each argument you make is composed of premises (this is a term for statements that express your reasons or evidence) that are arranged in the right way to support your conclusion (the main claim or interpretation you are offering). You can make your arguments stronger by

- using good premises (ones you have good reason to believe are both true and relevant to the issue at hand),
- making sure your premises provide good support for your conclusion (and not some other conclusion, or no conclusion at all),
- checking that you have addressed the most important or relevant aspects of the issue (that is, that your premises and conclusion focus on what is really important to the issue), and
- not making claims that are so strong or sweeping that you can’t really support them.

You also need to be sure that you present all of your ideas in an orderly fashion that readers can follow.

This handout describes some ways in which arguments often fail to do the things listed above; these failings are called fallacies. It is particularly easy to slip up and commit a fallacy when you have strong feelings about your topic—if a conclusion seems obvious to you, you’re more likely to just assume that it is true and to be careless with your evidence. The purpose of this handout, though, is not to argue for any particular position on any of these issues; rather, it is to illustrate weak reasoning. Please refer to specific rubrics to see how this weighted and evaluated in your writing.
ADDITIONAL COURSE BUSINESS

Communication Policy

The course discussion forums are for course-related purposes only. Personal conversations not related to this course should be conducted privately. Failure to observe this policy may result in disciplinary action.

All electronic communications conducted in the course of this class are bound by the same principles of respect, professionalism, and concern as any other interactions in the University's classrooms or offices.

Derogatory or inappropriate comments regarding race, gender, age, religion or sexual orientation are unacceptable and subject to disciplinary action, as they would be if they occurred in the physical classroom.

If you feel that these principles have been compromised in some way, please discuss this privately with your instructor.

Academic Integrity

The instructors expect each student to act with integrity and honesty. Students are expected to submit their own work on all assignments in this course. Ohio State University has an established Code of Student Conduct, which all students are expected to be familiar with. Any violations will be dealt with in accordance with established procedures. This means that an offense will be reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct for investigation and disposal. Penalties may range from an "E" in the course to dismissal from the University.

More information:

- Definition of Academic Misconduct
- Code of Student Conduct

Disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. For the Columbus campus, the Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu. Regional campus students can visit their respective Disability Services office.