Course Syllabus - Fall 2011
LI 810XU
Research in Library and Information Science
9/23-24, 10/28-29, & Internet

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Fax: (620) 341-5233
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Online Course Login: https://elearning.emporia.edu
Credit Hours: 3.0
Note: Course Syllabus May Change

Important Dates for Fall 2011

8/17: First day of class
8/30: Last day to drop
10/13: Midterm grades available
10/26: Last day to withdraw
12/9: Last day of semester
12/17: Commencement
9/5: Labor Day Holiday (ESU closed)
11/11: Veteran's Day Holiday (ESU closed)
11/23-11/27: Thanksgiving Break
10/11: Midterm grades due
12/20: Final grades due

Official Course Description

Introduction to research methods and their applications in Library and Information Science. Theoretical principles and practical procedures for planning, designing, conducting, analyzing, and evaluating research using both qualitative and quantitative methods are introduced. (Required)

Course Outcomes

Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the importance of research to the practice of library science.
2. Distinguish between reports of research and non research-based writing, such as
opinion pieces and anecdotal narratives.
3. Explain the stages of the research process.
4. Define the characteristics of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods in research, and identify the types of questions each is best suited to investigate.
5. Analyze and critique methods in a research article.
6. Conduct a review of current literature on a library and information science topic.
7. Prepare a reference list according to the current APA style manual.
8. Evaluate research findings from the review of current literature to suggest best practice.
9. Discuss the ethical issues involved in conducting research.

Instructor Contact Information

I am available for meetings during my open office hours, which are Tuesday, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. CT and 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. CT, Wednesday, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. CT, and Thursday, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. CT and 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. CT.

Please be advised that I may not be in my office during weeks in which I travel. I will post these travel dates on Blackboard.

Required Readings


Textbooks:


Journal articles available through ESU electronic reserves for the analysis of research literature:

Survey research:


Experimental research:

Xie, Bo., & Bugg, J.M. (2009). Public library computer training for older adults to access high-quality Internet health information. *Library and Information Science*
Research, 31, 155-162.

**Ethnographic research:**


**Systematic review:**


**Recommended Readings**


**Learning Activities**

- Read textbook chapters and journal articles on electronic reserves consistently as assigned.
- Listen to instructor's face-to-face and online presentations of course content, and review supplementary materials posted on Blackboard.
- Learn and apply research methods in the analysis of research literature.
- Participate actively in discussion during the analysis of research literature.
- Demonstrate comprehension of research literature.
- Write a logical and coherent evaluation of a research article.
- Write a logical and coherent systematic review of research literature for evidence-based practice based on 5-10 substantive research articles on a topic of your choice.

**Assignments**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: Review of Research Article (Introduction, Literature Review, and Methodology Sections)</td>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: Review of Research Article (Findings, Discussion, and Conclusion Sections)</td>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systematic Review of Literature for Evidence-Based Practice</td>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>40</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Tentative Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Activities and Due Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: 8/17</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<td>8/20 - Mini biography posted on the &quot;Introductions&quot; discussion forum</td>
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<td>Week 2: 8/22</td>
<td>Scientific Method of Research</td>
<td>Connaway and Powell, Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Week 3: 8/29</td>
<td>Sampling Techniques</td>
<td>Connaway and Powell, Chapter 4: pp. 115-132</td>
<td>Instructor's presentation online</td>
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<td>Week 4: 9/5</td>
<td>Data Collection Techniques</td>
<td>Connaway and Powell, Chapter 5</td>
<td>Instructor's presentation online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5: 9/12</td>
<td>Selecting the Research Method</td>
<td>Connaway and Powell, Chapter 3</td>
<td>9/17: Topic for Systematic Review Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6: 9/19</td>
<td>Survey Research Analysis of Survey Research: Introduction, Literature Review, and Methodology Experimental Research</td>
<td>Connaway and Powell, Chapter 4: 107-115 Article 1 Pyrczak, Chapters 1-7 Connaway and Powell, Chapter 6 Article 2 Pyrczak, Chapter 9</td>
<td>Class Meeting 9/23-9/24, Discuss Article 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7: 9/26</td>
<td>Qualitative Research</td>
<td>Connaway and Powell, Chapter 7: 207-222</td>
<td>10/1: Assignment 1 Instructor's presentation online</td>
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<td>Week 8: 10/3</td>
<td>Content Analysis</td>
<td>Connaway and Powell, Chapter 7: 222-234 Article 3</td>
<td>Discuss Article 3 online</td>
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<td>Week 9: 10/10</td>
<td>Historical Research</td>
<td>Connaway and Powell, Chapter 8</td>
<td>Review slides online</td>
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<td>Week 10: 10/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11: 10/24</td>
<td>Descriptive and Inferential Statistical Methods Analysis of Survey Research: Findings, Discussion, and Conclusion</td>
<td>Article 1 Pyrczak, Chapters 10 and 12</td>
<td>Class Meeting 10/28-10/29 Discuss Article 1</td>
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<td>Week 12: 10/31</td>
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<td>Week 13: 11/7</td>
<td>Systematic Review for Evidence-Based Practice</td>
<td>Article 4</td>
<td>Discuss Article 4 online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14: 11/14</td>
<td>Systematic Review for Evidence-Based Practice</td>
<td>Article 4</td>
<td>Instructor's presentation online</td>
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<td>Week 15: 11/21</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16: 11/28</td>
<td>Systematic Review for Evidence-Based Practice</td>
<td>Article 4</td>
<td>Discuss Article 4 online</td>
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<td>Week 17: 12/5</td>
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<td>12/10: Systematic Review of Literature for Evidence-Based Practice Due</td>
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**Grading Criteria**

All assignments must be submitted before 10:00 p.m. CT (Emporia Time) on the due date. Late assignments are subject to lowering of the grade by one letter grade per day late. Exceptions will be made only in extenuating circumstances.

Also, please adhere closely to writing and online submission format guidelines posted on Blackboard. Lack of adherence to these guidelines will affect your grade. For more information, please refer to the grading rubric attached to instructions for each assignment posted on Blackboard.

You are also expected to attend all face-to-face sessions, participate in class discussion, review online presentations, and participate in online discussion. Please be advised that
falling behind in any of these activities will affect your knowledge as well as participation grade, which can then affect your overall grade.

**SLIM Grading Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Letter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96 - 100</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90 - 95</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>87 - 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>84 - 87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>66 - 69</td>
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**SLIM Attendance Policy**

Students must attend all face-to-face classes.

In cases of emergency, see SLIM’s [Policy and Procedures for Absence from a Class Weekend due to Illness or Personal Emergency](#) (PDF).

**SLIM Grade Policy**

All graduate courses included in the SLIM MLS and doctoral programs' required curricula or their approved substitutions must be passed with a final grade of B- or better to receive academic credit. If a student does not receive a final grade of B- or better in any or all of SLIM’s required classes, then the student will be placed on academic probation and notified by the office of the director of program administration that he or she must retake that course or those courses.

When a student has been placed on academic probation, an administrative hold will be placed on the student’s record to block future enrollment. The administrative hold can only be released by the student’s academic advisor or by the SLIM dean or director of program administration. Before enrollment can be done, the student is required to meet with the student’s academic advisor with the goal of developing an academic improvement plan.

If a student has a semester GPA of less than 3.0 for two semesters or is on academic probation for two semesters, then the student’s academic progress will be reviewed in light of the academic improvement plan by the student’s program director, the SLIM dean, and the SLIM director of program administration, and a decision will be made regarding whether the student should be academically dismissed from the SLIM’s graduate program. This policy goes into effect fall 2009 semester. This SLIM Grade Policy applies to all SLIM students, including those students who entered SLIM under the 42-credit-hour MLS program, the 36-credit-hour MLS program, or the SLIM doctoral program. It will also apply to all those who have passed into MLS or doctoral degree candidacy.
SLIM Incomplete Grade Policy

SLIM’s Incomplete Grade Policy upholds the Emporia State University Incomplete Grade Policy (for full policy, go to: http://www.emporia.edu/grad/docs/policyhandbook2.pdf).

SLIM’s Incomplete Grade Policy further stipulates that an incomplete request will not be considered approved without an Incomplete Request Form having been submitted by the instructor and approved by the SLIM dean within two weeks after the issuance of the incomplete. If the incomplete grade is being requested for reasons of health, then documentation must be submitted to the SLIM dean’s office before the final grade change is made.

If a SLIM student’s request for a single incomplete grade is approved by the instructor and dean, then the student will be limited to enrolling in six credit hours in the immediately succeeding semester. If a SLIM student requests more than one incomplete grade to be issued at the conclusion of a semester, then an administrative hold will be placed on the student’s record to block future enrollment until all incomplete grades are finished and the final grade changes have been submitted by the instructor(s), signed by the SLIM dean, and accepted by the ESU Registrar’s Office.

Faculty-Initiated Student Withdrawal Procedure

Students should be aware that your instructor follows the university’s policy of faculty-initiated student withdrawal. It reads as follows: “If a student’s absences from class or disruptive behavior become detrimental to the student’s progress or that of other students in the class, the faculty member shall attempt to contact the student in writing about withdrawing from the class and shall seek the aid of the office of Vice President of Student Affairs to help insure contacting the Student. The Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs shall provide the student information about the existing appeals procedures. Upon receiving a written report from the faculty member, the Vice President of Student Affairs may initiate a student withdrawal from the class. None of the above implies or states that faculty members are required to initiate the student withdrawals for excessive absence. [Policy and Procedures Manual 43.11]

Academic Dishonesty

At Emporia State University, academic dishonesty is a basis for disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to activities such as cheating and plagiarism (presenting as one's own the intellectual or creative accomplishments of another without giving credit to the source or sources.)

The faculty member in whose course or under whose tutelage an act of academic dishonesty occurs has the option of failing the student for the academic hours in question and may refer the case to other academic personnel for further action. Emporia State University may impose penalties for academic dishonesty up to and including expulsion.
Disabilities Policy

Emporia State University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students need to contact the Director of Disability Services and the professor as early in the semester as possible to ensure that classroom and academic accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. All communication between students, the Office of Disability Services, and the professor will be strictly confidential.

**Contact information for the Office of Disability Services:**
Office of Disability Services  
211 S Morse Hall  
Emporia State University  
1200 Commercial Street / Box 23  
Emporia, KS 66801  
*Phone*: 620/341-6637  
*TTY*: 620/341-6646  
*Email*: disabser@emporia.edu