L ST 301H, Section 601: INFO RES METH SYS

Instructor  Sara Whildin
Title  Campus Head Librarian
Office Phone  610.892.1381
Office Address  206 Vairo Library
Office Hours  2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday; others by appointment
E-mail  slw4@psu.edu
Location  201 Vairo
Times  Thursdays, 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
Start Date  1.14.2010
Course Credits  1

Required Text


Course Description

The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with the structure and tools of information retrieval in various disciplines in order to prepare you for honors thesis research.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should:

1. know how the literature of your discipline is organized.

2. be able to use the major information retrieval tools in your discipline.

3. conduct an efficient and effective search for information in your discipline.

4. identify, select and evaluate information sources in your discipline.

5. document information sources in your discipline.

6. apply information to solve specific problems in your discipline.

7. complete the required honors thesis proposal form.

Tentative Schedule

See Lessons Tab
Course Requirements

1. Attendance at, active participation in, and completion of class prep work/in class exercises for all class meetings.

2. Compilation of a bibliography of at least 30 sources reflecting information in a variety of formats on your topic, cited using the appropriate citation style of your field.

3. A short title list of finding tools you used to compile the bibliography.

4. Completion of a 3 to 4 page literature review essay related to your projected thesis topic. The essay should cover at least 20 of the 30 sources in your bibliography.

5. Submission of two preliminary drafts and a final submission of the required honors thesis proposal form.

Course Prerequisites

Permission of honors advisor.

Grading Policy

15 points class attendance

5 points short title list of finding tools

30 points bibliography

30 points literature review essay

20 points honors thesis proposal form (5 points for each draft/ 10 points for final submission)

100 points total

Final course grade will be assigned as follows:

A= 90-100

B= 80-89

C= 70-79

D= 60-69
F= 59 and below

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all classes is required. If illness or other emergency causes an absence, please notify the instructor immediately and arrange for a make up class.

Exam Policy

There will no exams.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to do your own work, and properly cite any sources you use. Make sure if any quotations are used in your essay, they are properly cited. Plagiarism or any other lapse in academic integrity results in an F for the course. For full details on University policies regarding academic integrity see the following web site:
http://www.psu.edu/dept/oue/aappm/G-9.html

Disability Policy

You are expected to do your own work, and properly cite any sources you use. Make sure if any quotations are used in your essay, they are properly cited. Plagiarism or any other lapse in academic integrity results in an F for the course. For full details on University policies regarding academic integrity see the following web site:
http://www.psu.edu/dept/oue/aappm/G-9.html