

LIBR 6: Introduction to Specialized Research Databases - SYLLABUS

Spring Semester 2013

.5 CSU Transferable Unit - Pass/No Pass

CRN# 32318

This course is designed to develop your ability to use the key online discipline-specific database resources of the Las Positas Library and *is three 3 hour classes in the library's instructional lab*. The class is scheduled February 1, February 8, & February 22.

Instructor: Tina Inzerilla.

E-mail tinzerilla@laspositascollege.edu

Work Phone 925-424-1150 (Library Reference Desk)

Office Hours: On-campus office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1-2pm. If you call in advance we can arrange a meeting at other times Monday through Friday. You can also drop by the library and ask for me Monday through Thursday 9am-3pm. Dropping by is riskier because I may be in meetings.

Notes: To leave me a voicemail: 925-424-1158. You have a better chance of talking to me at the reference desk number listed above.

Textbook: Links to LIBR 6: Introduction to Specialized Research Databases are available online at the Library Classes webpage: <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/library/libraryclasses.php>

Dates To Know: Last day for NGR: 2/1/13

Last day for W: 2/8/13

Supplies: Discount GoPrint cards to print from library computers are available at the Bookstore
Student I.D. card

Course Description:

Introduction to research techniques in a college library using specialized research databases. Learn use of subject databases that emphasize full-text materials on discipline-specific topics such as literature, pro-con issues, and gender topics. Practice MLA /APA citation formats for articles from these databases.

Course Requirements and Student Responsibilities:

1. Attendance is mandatory. **No make-up days will be allowed.**
2. Students must be willing to do independent and group projects.
3. Students will complete and turn in hands-on exercises at the end of each class.
4. You will receive credit for your work after you have successfully completed the hands-on exercises, homework, and the final project.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

1. Research a given topic and select appropriate articles.
2. Search Las Positas College research databases to find periodical articles in journals, newspapers or magazines as well as other research materials.
3. Formulate effective research strategies for locating magazine, journal, and newspaper articles as well as other research materials on a selected topic in LPC discipline-specific databases.
4. Distinguish between popular magazines and peer-reviewed journals.
5. Document sources by creating a works-cited list based on APA and MLA guidelines in NoodleBib, a citation-generating tool. **Citing your sources helps you avoid plagiarism by giving credit to the sources you used.** Read the *LPC Academic Honesty Statement* for more detail <<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/facultystaff/honesty.php>>.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are statements describing knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes that a student will be able to demonstrate at the end (or as a result) of his or her completion of a particular assignment, course, or program.

1. Students will develop and refine search strategies to locate appropriate information sources using the special research databases for an approved topic.
2. Students will create MLA and APA bibliographies from the appropriate information sources.

Classroom Behavior:

Cellular phones, pagers, iPods, CD/DVD players, and any other noise-producing device (with or without earphones) must be turned OFF during class.

1. **You must arrive on time and stay until the class is over.** Students who arrive late or leave early will have their participation points reduced 5 points.
2. Students may not eat or drink in class. A 20-minute break will be given.
3. Students are not to engage in disruptive chitchat with others or sleep in class.
4. At the beginning of the class, seating is on a first come, first served basis. However, the instructor reserves the right to make specific seat assignments as necessary.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

1. Students have the right to be treated in a courteous, professional, and appropriate manner by faculty, staff, and other students. Students are also expected to behave and interact with others in a courteous, professional, and appropriate manner inside and outside of the classroom. Intimidation, threats, and demeaning/derogatory language or behaviors are unacceptable.
2. The following issues are inappropriate at Las Positas and will not be tolerated: plagiarism (including copying words or ideas from other students, or allowing his or her personal effort to be used by others); sexual harassment; harassment for any other illegal reason (i.e., race, religion, gender, age, ethnicity, etc.); discrimination; creating a hostile or demeaning atmosphere; threats of violence or intimidation and any other violations of the school's honor code, the educational process, and the school's general policies. Students with concerns in these areas, or others, may speak with their professor, or contact Student Services. For additional information, contact Rajinder Samra, Director of Research and Planning, at 925.424.1027.

Grading:

Day 1 Participation and Exercises	30	Day 1 Homework	30
Day 2 Participation and Exercises	30	Day 2 Homework	30
Day 3 Participation and Exercises	30		
Final Project	100		

To receive a grade of CREDIT students must have 175 points.

NOTE: STUDENTS WHO DO NOT COMPLETE THE FINAL PROJECT WILL RECEIVE A NO-PASS GRADE.

Deadline Calendar

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL CLASSES TO PASS THE COURSE.

Week 1

Friday 2/1 In-Class Exercises, Homework due 2/8 (beginning of class)

Week 2

Friday 2/8 In-Class Exercises, Homework due 2/22 (beginning of class)

Week 3

Friday 2/22 In-Class Exercises, Final Project due 3/1

Complete Final Project by March 1, 2013 (this is required to pass the class). Late projects are NOT accepted.