

LSC 702: Advanced Information Sources & Services

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change.

ONLINE CLASS (using BlackBoard) - with two face-to-face meetings planned at the Library of Congress (**LM 654 A/B**) held on Tuesday, May 15 from 4:30-8:00 PM and Tuesday, July 31 from 4:30-8:00 PM. The instructor will work with students who can't attend to schedule one or more make-ups.

Instructor: Kristina Lively (Kristina@livelyhood.com)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: *Information sources and search strategies, including an introduction to specialized sources in the social sciences and humanities, and search strategies appropriate to sources in different formats.*

Prerequisite: *LSC 553 or 9 hours of graduate credit in a social science or humanities discipline.*

Note: We will cover literature, philosophy & religion, theater/dance & film/TV, music, and art in the humanities, and psychology, sociology/anthropology, political science, education, and history in the social sciences.

OBJECTIVES: By the end of the session, students should be able to:

1. *Discuss characteristic information needs and information-seeking behaviors of different user groups;*
2. *Develop appropriate strategies for locating information in different subject fields; and*
3. *Discuss characteristics of disciplinary knowledge structures that affect access to information.*

TEXTBOOKS: Two, both classic works (available as relatively inexpensive trade paperbacks) that are relevant to questions we will raise about the nature of knowledge in the social sciences and humanities. Both should be available in the CUA Bookstore - and readily available elsewhere to students living far from campus. They are:

- Becker, Howard S. (1982). *Art Worlds*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (ISBN 0-520-05218-8)
- Maier, Mark. (1999). *The Data Game*, 3rd ed. Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe. (ISBN 0-7656-0376)

Any other readings will be available in electronic form - including weekly lecture notes from the instructor and discussions of disciplinary information needs and uses authored by members of the class. Discussion questions will be based on these, as well as assigned readings. Students will also receive annotated lists of information sources for each discipline or group of disciplines covered, to be used in doing search problems and in the required discussion of coverage of a topic of the student's choice.

ASSIGNMENTS: Students will be required to: (1) prepare a 7-10 page description of information needs and uses in a specific discipline, to be submitted electronically to the instructor and shared with the class (25% of course grade); (2) complete four problem sets consisting of answers to 2-4 search problems (25%) and of a brief discussion of the way a topic of the student's is covered in the relevant set of disciplines (25%); and participate in class discussions based on assigned (textbook) readings and discussions of disciplinary information needs and uses (25%).

CLASS MEETINGS: Two class meetings are planned at the Library of Congress (**LM 654 A/B**) – one on May 15 from 4:30-8:00 PM, and one on July 31 from 4:30-8:00 PM. All other work will be done electronically using BlackBoard.

GRADING: A 12-point system will be used in grading. Points given for assignments will be weighted as indicated above, and grades assigned on the following basis: 12 = A, 11 = A-, 10 = B+, 9 = B, 8 = B-, 6 = C, less than 6 = F.

ADA ACCOMODATION: Students with disabilities requiring accommodation under federal regulations must present a written accommodation request to the instructor by the second class meeting. It is strongly recommended that the student contact the Office of Disability Support Services, Suite 207, Pryzbyla Center (202-319-5211; email cua-disabilityservices@cua.edu, web <http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu/>). This is the University office responsible for disability accommodation and services, and its staff can answer questions about services and requirements regarding documentation. Special accommodations or other arrangements cannot be made without documentation approved by this office.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Please read the policy on "Academic Dishonesty" included in the academic policies and procedures on the University's web page. Incidences of academic dishonesty, defined as "failure to observe rules of fairness in taking exams or writing papers, plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating" will result in a grade of F (0 points) on the project or exam in question, and will be reported to the Dean for possible further action (including failure in the course). Review the web page or discuss the problem with your instructor if you have questions about what is involved in such offenses.

Plagiarism, which the University defines to include "[1] intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise; [2] failure to attribute any of the following: quotations, paraphrases, or borrowed information from print sources or websites; [3] buying completed papers from other to use as one's own work", will not be tolerated. For more on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, see the web site of the Purdue Online Writing Lab web site or the Indiana University Writing Tutorial Services web site.