

**Short Topics in Work:
Information Literacy**

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Monday 11/9-12/7 12:35pm-3:35pm, Labor Ed. Center Rm. 137

Fall 2015

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

To assist in conducting research in the field of labor and employment studies, the course provides an overview of the research strategies and techniques used to determine an information need, to access and evaluate information critically, to incorporate information into one's research, and to use and understand the information effectively and appropriately. Information literacy concepts such as research methods, scholarly resources, source evaluation, citation creation, intellectual property, and copyright will be covered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Determine the nature and extent of an information need;
2. Access needed information effectively and efficiently;
3. Evaluate information and its sources critically;
4. Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose; and
5. Understand the ethical, legal and socio-economic issues surrounding the use of information.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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|----------------------|-----------|
| Take-Home Worksheets | 30 points |
| Class Attendance | 25 points |
| Analysis Paper | 40 points |
| Final Assessment | 5 points |

Take-Home Worksheets

There will be three (3) take-home worksheets consisting of questions on the required readings and lecture material. Each worksheet will be distributed at the end of the class session to be due at the beginning of the next class session.

Class Attendance

Students are highly encouraged to attend all five sessions of the course. Class attendance points will be deducted for absences.

Analysis Paper

An analysis paper will be due on the last day of class. Find an online news article that is reporting on a study or research report. Conduct research using the methods and techniques discussed in class to either support or refute the arguments made in the news article. Answer questions such as: Does the news article have merit? What sort of conclusions did the news article make? Are such conclusions credible compared to the actual research study? Why are these conclusions credible or not credible? A bibliography of at least 3 scholarly sources is required to support your argument. Paper and bibliography must be in APA format. The paper should not be longer than two pages.

Final Assessment

A final assessment will be given on the last day of class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Nov 9: *Determining the Nature and Extent of an Information Need*

Topics Covered

Course Introduction
What is information Literacy?
Information and Database Structures
Beginning the Research Process
Identifying Information Needs

Nov 16: *Accessing Needed Information Effectively and Efficiently*

Topics Covered

Identifying Key Terms and Subjects
Search Strategies
Database Techniques
Retrieving Sources
Citation Creation

Required Reading

(Please use the Rutgers Libraries System to find the readings within one of the library's online databases.)

Colón-Aguirre, M. & Fleming-May, R. A. (2012). 'You just type in what you are looking for': undergraduates' use of library resources vs. Wikipedia. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 38(6), 391-399.

Assignments Due

1. Submit the basis of your analysis paper with three (3) deliverables. You will need to locate an online news article that is solely reporting on one research study.
 - A. First deliverable: Locate and indicate with a web address an online news article that is solely reporting on one research study.
 - B. Second deliverable: Locate and indicate with a citation the research study that the online news article is reporting on.
 - C. Third deliverable: Write a one sentence argument that will be the basis of your analysis paper. *For example, "The author of my online news article offered an accurate description of the research study that was conducted and I will explain why." OR "The author of my online news article did not make credible conclusions based on the actual research study and I will explain why."*
 2. Take-Home Worksheet, "Information Literacy 101"
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Nov 23: *Evaluating Information and Its Sources Critically*

Topics Covered

Evaluating Information
In-Text Citations

Plagiarism

Required Reading

(Please use the Rutgers Libraries System to find the readings within one of the library's online databases.)

Evering, L. C. & Moorman, G. (2012). Rethinking plagiarism in the digital age. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, 56(1), 35-44.

Assignments Due

1. Take-Home Worksheet, "Effective Search Strategies"

Nov 30: *Using Information Effectively and Understanding Various Issues around Its Use*

Topics Covered

Organizing Evidence into an Original Argument
Integrating Information
Communicating Information Gathered

Required Reading

(Please use the Rutgers Libraries System to find the readings within one of the library's online databases.)

Head, A. J., Van Hoeck, M., Eschler, J., & Fullerton, S. (2013). What information competencies matter in today's workplace? *Library and Information Research*, 37(114), 74-104.

Assignments Due

1. Take-Home Worksheet, "Evaluating and Using Information"
2. *Optional*: Locate two possible scholarly articles to use in your analysis paper and a brief explanation as to why they are relevant to your argument.

Dec 7: *Information Literacy in the Workplace*

Topics Covered

Information Literacy and Workplace Competencies
Current Research in the Field
Internet Evaluation
Copyright, Fair Use, and Intellectual Property

Assignments Due

Analysis Paper Due in class.

Final Assessment at end of class.