

COURSE OUTLINE

Library 191 Introduction to Information Competency

Catalog Statement

LIB 191 is designed to teach and strengthen lifelong research and information competency skills by introducing students to the nature of research and the role of the library in the research process. Students learn the core concepts of information retrieval and essential techniques for finding, evaluating, analyzing, organizing, and presenting information. The topics covered include: using online catalogs to locate books and other library resources; developing research strategies; exercising critical thinking to evaluate information; applying critical and search techniques to electronic databases; understanding citation formats and using the internet as a research tool.

Total Lecture Units: 2.0

Total Laboratory Units: 0.0

Total Course Units: 2.0

Total Lecture Hours: 32.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 32.0

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 101

Course Entry Expectations

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

- organize and write thesis-based essays
- use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements
- critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues
- summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions
- gather and organize information through library research
- demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work: control of standard English at the sentence level, with few major errors in grammar and punctuation.

Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- recognize the need for information and define a research topic;
- develop and implement an effective search strategy appropriate for an information need;
- locate and retrieve information;

- evaluate information;
- assess the research strategy;
- employ principles of ethical and legal use of information;
- organize, synthesize, and communicate information.

Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 32.0

Research Process (6 hours)

Structure and organization of information resources
Develop a “working knowledge” of a research topic
Developing a research question and search strategy

Information Resources (8 hours)

Online library catalogs
Library subscription databases
Open web resources

Search Techniques (8 hours)

Advanced search techniques, such as:

Keyword selection and Boolean operators Truncation/wildcard
Controlled Vocabulary/Subject Heading
Field searching and delimiters
Faceted searching

Using call numbers, citations, and URLs

Features and advanced functions of web search tools (i.e. domain searching, etc.)

Evaluating Information (5 hours)

Identifying appropriate information sources
Critical analysis and evaluation of sources for purpose, relevance, appropriateness, credibility, timeliness, etc.

Ethical Use of Information (5 hours)

Proper use vs. plagiarism
Citing sources

Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in this course:

- classroom discussions/lectures;
- demonstration;
- guided instruction and practice;
- hands-on exercises;
- group projects

Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

- exercises and homework (e.g. produce concept maps for select reading assignments; complete worksheets that ask for the use of specific search techniques and application of search strategies to improve research skills);

- works-in-progress for instructor review (e.g. submit draft annotations or summaries of sources incorporating paraphrases and quotations, revise for improvement);
- annotated bibliography, and/or a narrative essay about research process (e.g. compile a bibliography based on a specific research question developed during the semester; write a research diary/journal that describes how specific search strategies, techniques and evaluation skills were applied to a specific research topic).

Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

- problem-based, practical exams (e.g. exams consisting of research scenarios/problems for which students are asked to apply research strategies, techniques, and evaluation skills learned in class);
- formalized pre- and post-assessment tests for SLO evaluation.

Textbooks

Badke, William B. *Research Strategies: Finding Your Way through the Information Fog*.
5th ed. Bloomington: iUniverse, 2014. Print.
10th Grade Textbook Reading Level: ISBN: 978-1491722336

If available, electronic versions of the above texts will be recommended. Other electronic resources, tutorials, and open textbook resources.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- recognize an information need and articulate a research question;
- develop research strategies and use search techniques to locate sources;
- evaluate information sources for quality;
- cite sources using proper citation format.