Course Syllabus

LI903XR

Research Philosophy

Fall Semester 2014

Faculty: Dr. Andrew Smith
E-mail: asmith37@emporia.edu
Primary Phone: (620) 341-5790
Online Course Login: canvas.emporia.edu
Credit Hours: 3
Meetings: Internet, 10/10-11; 12/5-6

Important Dates for Fall 2014

8/18 First Day of Class
8/29 Last Day to Add/Drop
9/1 Labor Day (ESU closed)
10/24 Last Day to Withdraw
11/11 Veteran’s Day (ESU closed)
12/5 Last Day of Classes
12/13 Commencement
11/26-30 Thanksgiving (ESU closed)
12/16 Final Grades Due
Program Goal

The goal of SLIM’s doctoral program is to prepare scholars to:

- conduct significant research that contributes to the theory basis of library and information science and constructs linkages to contemporary professional problems,
- teach in academic environments, and
- develop leaders for libraries and information organizations.

Catalog Description

Examines various constructs of science in society. Emphasis is placed on identifying assumptions about human nature, defining a researchers view of the social world, and identifying basic paradigms that serve as a foundation for inquiry. (Approved 1/1/2008)

Course Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By the end of the course, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Ph.D. Program Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Articulate various historical contexts within which social theory and social ideas have developed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Articulate and critically evaluate social theory, identifying the dominant social science paradigm and related assumptions about human nature.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Articulate main theoretical traditions of research in library and information studies identifying assumptions about the nature of information and information users and researcher’s view of the social world found in library and information research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Write a manuscript suitable for publication.</td>
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</table>

Approved 4/22/11

Instructor Contact Information

My regular office hours are on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Central Time. However, I am always happy to set up an appointment to talk in person or by phone at another time. My office phone number is forwarded to my cellphone, so you should be able to reach me – within reasonable hours, please.
Please note that I serve SLIM in both faculty and administrative roles, and am often out of the office on business or in meetings. If I am unable to take your call, I will return it as soon as I can. In particular, I am leading a trip to Serbia in October, so although you are still free to contact me, please understand that Serbia is 7 hours ahead of Kansas and I have my cellphone on at all times as it is our emergency contact number. I’ll remind you of this before I travel!

Required Readings


Recommended Readings

The two required texts form the basis of the course, but additional readings will be necessary. These will be listed in the course modules as we go. Readings that are freely available through the ESU William Allen White library databases will simply receive a citation. Only those that are unavailable through our databases will be available directly in the course.

Learning Activities

Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Course Outcome(s) Met</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Discussions</td>
<td>1, 2, &amp; 3</td>
<td>8/18 – 12/5</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Summary</td>
<td>1, 2, &amp; 3</td>
<td>Due by end of assigned week</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy Statement</td>
<td>1, 2, &amp; 3</td>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>1, 2, &amp; 3</td>
<td>8/18 – 12/5</td>
<td>20</td>
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</table>

Research Discussions

Much of this course centers round ideas. The best way to come to grips with these ideas is to discuss what they mean and how they influence our understanding. It is often helpful to hear how others interpret the ideas and how their interpretations differ from our own. In order for this to happen you all need to be willing to participate fully in the discussion forum.

Chapter Summary

The chapter summaries afford you the opportunity to summarize what you are reading and also to help your colleagues in their understanding. Chapter summaries will be shared as part of the research discussions. Each student will be responsible for two chapter summaries that will be due by the end of the assigned reading week.
Philosophy Statement

The philosophy statement is your opportunity to clarify your own ideas and identify the lens through which you view the world. Philosophy Statements are very personal and you will not be asked to share these. Note also that the purpose of this course is not to change your personal philosophy or to promote any one philosophy, but to make you aware of the variety of philosophies that have and continue to influence research in the social sciences and in our own field.

Participation

Participation is vital in the course, both for your own learning and that of your colleagues. In addition to the research discussions, participation includes peer review (where indicated), being prepared through assigned readings for the weekend intensives, as well as taking part in the various weekend activities.

Tentative Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Activities and Due Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: 8/18-8/24</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<td>8/24 – “Introductions” discussion forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: 8/25-8/31</td>
<td>The Beginnings of Science</td>
<td>Budd Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3: 9/1-9/7</td>
<td>Genealogy of Thought</td>
<td>Budd Chapter 2</td>
<td>9/7 Discussion Forum 1 closes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4: 9/8-9/14</td>
<td>Real Reality?</td>
<td>Budd Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5: 9/15-9/21</td>
<td>False Starts and Dead Ends</td>
<td>Budd Chapter 4</td>
<td>9/21 Discussion Forum 2 closes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6: 9/22-9/28</td>
<td>LIS: Knowledge and Knowing</td>
<td>Budd Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Week 7: 9/29-10/5</td>
<td>Paths to Knowledge</td>
<td>Budd Chapter 6</td>
<td>10/5 Discussion Forum 3 closes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8: 10/6-10/12</td>
<td>Possibilities in LIS</td>
<td>Budd Chapter 7</td>
<td>Class meeting 10/10-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9: 10/13-10/19</td>
<td>Critical Theory</td>
<td>Leckie &amp; Buschman Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, &amp; 3</td>
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<td>Week 10: 10/20-10/26</td>
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<td>Leckie &amp; Buschman Chapters 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11: 10/27-11/2</td>
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<td>Leckie &amp; Buschman Chapters 8, 9, &amp; 10</td>
<td>11/2 Discussion Forum 4 closes</td>
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### Grading Criteria

Each assignment has a grading rubric attached. Please refer to the rubrics to see exactly how each assignment is graded and use this to guide your preparation.

#### SLIM Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 - 95</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 83</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74 - 76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 73</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 69</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SLIM Grade Policy

All graduate courses required in the university-approved curricula of SLIM’s master’s programs, certificate programs, academic concentrations, and doctoral program--or their approved substitutions--must be passed with a final grade of B- or better to receive academic credit. If a student does not receive a final grade of B- or better in any or all of SLIM’s required classes, then the student will be given an academic warning and the student will be notified by SLIM administration that he or she must retake that course or those courses.

When a student has been given an academic warning, an administrative hold will be placed on the student’s record to block future enrollment. Before enrollment can be done, the student is required to meet with his or her academic advisor with the goal of developing an academic improvement plan. The administrative hold can only be released by the student’s academic advisor or by the SLIM dean. The administrative hold will be released once the student completes his or her next semester course(s) with a B- or above.
If a student has a semester GPA of less than 3.0 for two semesters or has been given an academic warning for two semesters, then the student’s academic progress will be reviewed in light of the academic improvement plan by the student’s program director and the SLIM dean. A decision will be made as to whether the student should be academically dismissed from the SLIM graduate program.

This SLIM Grade Policy applies to all students in SLIM’s master’s degree programs, certificate programs, the doctoral program, and academic concentrations. It also applies to all those who have passed into MLS or doctoral degree candidacy.

**SLIM Attendance Policy**

Students must attend all face-to-face classes. Class hours for weekend face-to-face meetings are 6pm-9pm on Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturday.

In cases of emergency, go to [http://www.emporia.edu/slim/studentresources/policies.html](http://www.emporia.edu/slim/studentresources/policies.html) for more information.

**SLIM Incomplete Grade Policy**

SLIM’s Incomplete Grade Policy upholds the Emporia State University Incomplete Grade Policy (for full policy, go to: [http://www.emporia.edu/regist/trnscpt/grades.html](http://www.emporia.edu/regist/trnscpt/grades.html)).

SLIM’s Incomplete Grade Policy further stipulates that an incomplete request will not be considered approved without an Incomplete Request Form having been submitted by the instructor and approved by the SLIM dean within two weeks after the issuance of the incomplete. If the incomplete grade is being requested for reasons of health, then documentation must be submitted to the SLIM dean’s office before the final grade change is made.

If a SLIM student’s request for a single incomplete grade is approved by the instructor and dean, then the student will be limited to enrolling in six credit hours in the immediately succeeding semester. If a SLIM student requests more than one incomplete grade to be issued at the conclusion of a semester, then an administrative hold will be placed on the student’s record to block future enrollment until all incomplete grades are finished and the final grade changes have been submitted by the instructor(s), signed by the SLIM dean, and accepted by the ESU Registrar’s Office.
SLIM Netiquette Policy

This course will involve the exchange of ideas, questions, and comments in an online and/or blended learning community. In all of your class communications, please use the same tact and respect that you would if you were talking to classmates face to face. Remember that in online communication the visual and auditory aspects are missing, so be especially careful to ensure your emails and discussion postings accurately convey your meaning and are not open to misconstruction. Humor is especially difficult to convey in this environment, so take extra care with your writing. Please maintain your professionalism and courtesy at all times when interacting with others in the class.

Course Evaluations

SLIM uses the IDEA evaluation instrument to gather feedback from students on the effectiveness of each course. The data gathered is shared with instructors in aggregated form, and is used for both course and teaching improvement. Evaluation surveys are made available to students toward the end of each semester, and periodic email reminders are sent to encourage participation. The surveys are administered by The IDEA Center and student responses are anonymous (unless students share any identifying information in their comments). Instructors do not have access to individual student surveys at any time, and only receive aggregated data at least two weeks after final grades are submitted.

Faculty-initiated Student Withdrawal Procedure

SLIM instructors follow the university’s policy of faculty-initiated student withdrawal which states:

If a student's absences from class, disruptive behavior, lack of prerequisites, or academic dishonesty become detrimental to the student's progress or that of other students in the class, the faculty member may advise the student to withdraw from the class. Withdrawal may also be advised if the student is inappropriately enrolled in the class. If the faculty member chooses to withdraw the student, he/she shall attempt to notify the student in writing that a faculty initiated withdrawal is in progress. This notification will be copied to the department chair and Academic Affairs office to serve as the request for withdrawal. If efforts to contact the student have been unsuccessful, or unacknowledged, the faculty member shall then seek the aid of the Academic Affairs office in contacting the student. The Academic Affairs office shall provide the student with information about the existing appeals procedures.

Upon receiving a written request for withdrawal from the faculty member, the Academic Affairs office may initiate a student withdrawal from the class. None of the above implies or states that faculty members are required to initiate any student withdrawal. [Policy and Procedures Manual 4E.13]
Academic Dishonesty

At Emporia State University, academic dishonesty is a basis for disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to activities such as cheating and plagiarism (presenting as one's own the intellectual or creative accomplishments of another without giving credit to the source or sources.)

The faculty member in whose course or under whose tutelage an act of academic dishonesty occurs has the option of failing the student for the academic hours in question and may refer the case to other academic personnel for further action. Emporia State University may impose penalties for academic dishonesty up to and including expulsion from the university.

Disabilities Policy

Emporia State University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students need to contact the Director of Disability Services and the professor as early in the semester as possible to ensure that classroom and academic accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. All communication between students, the Office of Disability Services, and the professor will be strictly confidential.

Contact information for the Office of Disability Services:

Office of Disability Services
106 Plumb Hall
Emporia State University
1 Kellogg Circle / Box 4023
Emporia, KS 66801
Phone: 620/341-6637
TTY: 620/341-6646
Email: disabser@emporia.edu