Course Syllabus

LI890XR

Advanced Research Strategies

Spring Semester 2016

Faculty: Dr. Mirah Dow  
E-mail: mdow@emporia.edu  
Primary Phone: 620-341-5734  
Online Course Login: canvas.emporia.edu  
Credit Hours: 3  
Meetings: Internet begins 1/20  
Weekends 2/26-27; 4/29-30

Important Dates for Spring 2016

1/20 First Day of Class  
2/2 Last Day to Add/Drop  
2/2 Last Day to Withdraw with full refund  
4/6 Last Day to Withdraw and receive “W”  
5/6 Last Day of Classes  
5/17 Final Grades Due  
5/14 Commencement
Program Goal
The goal of the SLIM Master of Library Science program at Emporia State University is to educate library and information professionals with imagination, creativity, and innovation. http://www.emporia.edu/slim/index.html

Catalog Description
This course focuses on comparing and contrasting the philosophical foundation and research strategies of studies that use qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method approaches to investigate problems in LIS. It focuses on evaluating methodological tools and approaches to investigating research questions and evaluating LIS research studies. (Approved 11/9/11)

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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Articulate purposes, concepts, and principles of research in general and specifically in library and information studies.</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Evaluate library and information studies research literature.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 State research questions suitable for research in library and information studies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Write a research proposal including problem identification and selection; hypothesis statement, question(s) and relevant variables; literature review; methodology; design of study including methods for data collection and analysis; limitations; and timeline for conducting research.</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Follow ethical procedure for conducting research.</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Approved 4/22/11

Course Overview
This course will be held face-to-face on the above-stated weekends at ESU-KC, Overland Park, KS. Attendance at face-to-face class meetings is required. This course will also utilize the Canvas course management system throughout the semester.

Instructor Contact Information
The best way to contact Dr. Dow is to email her at mdow@emporia.edu. You may also schedule telephone conversation or face-to-face meeting at her office. Individual sessions via Zoom may also be scheduled. Optional class sessions using Zoom will be scheduled as necessary.
Required Textbooks

Textbooks for this course are textbooks students have already purchased and read in other Ph.D. research courses. These are textbooks that are likely to be useful to students in preparation for the required research qualifying exam, and in the dissertation phase of the Ph.D. program (and beyond) for determining and justifying choice of research strategies.

Note: There are also additional readings included in some Learning Activity documents.


Learning Activities

Learning activities (assignments) are in Canvas Modules. Learning activity topics are extended into weekend participation (outlined in weekend Class Agenda).
Assignments

Assignments are designed to introduce content specific to topics in advanced research strategies in library and information science. Students should read all the assignments at the beginning of the semester. Students should use the entire allotted timeframe between each assignments to focus on the assignment for that period, taking time to consider each topic deeply before moving on to the next.

Learning activities involved in all assignments should have a cumulative effect on students’ development of advanced understandings that are necessary to appropriately complete assignments 9 and 10 at the advanced level suitable for moving into the required research qualifying exam and the dissertation phase of the ESU SLIM Ph.D. program.

Each assignment has its own instructions and evaluation document located in each corresponding Canvas Module. Please read all the assignments at the beginning of the semester and as many times as necessary throughout the semester. It is highly recommended that students read and follow closely instructions written in the assignment documents while doing each assignment.

Mid-term grades will be determined by averaging completed assignments and posted on March 22, 2016.

Throughout the semester, scores for each assignment will be posted in Canvas.

Official grades will be posted and can be viewed by students in ESU Buzz-IN.

Reading assignments are included in assignment documents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments &amp; Topic</th>
<th>Course Outcome(s) Met</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points (100)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>Course Outcome 1</td>
<td>2/1 (begin January 20)</td>
<td>5 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Activity 1, Candidate Attrition; Compare and Contrast Dissertations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Course Outcome 1</td>
<td>2/15</td>
<td>5 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Activity 2, LIS Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>Course Outcome 1</td>
<td>2/22</td>
<td>5 Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Activity 3, ESU Dissertation Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Learning Activity 4, First Weekend Participation (see Class Agenda in Canvas)</td>
<td>Course Outcome 1-5</td>
<td>2/26-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Learning Activity 5, LIS Classifications and Themes</td>
<td>Course Outcome 2</td>
<td>2/29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 6</td>
<td>Learning Activity 6, Advanced Research Evaluation and Analysis</td>
<td>Course Outcome 3</td>
<td>3/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 7</td>
<td>Learning Activity 7, Advanced Research Evaluation and Analysis</td>
<td>Course Outcome 3</td>
<td>3/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 8</td>
<td>Learning Activity 8, Advanced Evaluation and Analysis</td>
<td>Course Outcome 3</td>
<td>4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 9</td>
<td>Learning Activity 9, Ethics and APA</td>
<td>Course Outcome 5</td>
<td>4/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 10</td>
<td>Learning Activity 10, Research Scenario</td>
<td>Course Outcome 4</td>
<td>5/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 11</td>
<td>Learning Activity 11, Second Weekend Participation (see Class Agenda in Canvas)</td>
<td>Course Outcome 1-5</td>
<td>4/29-4/30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 12</td>
<td>Learning Activity 12, Research Proposal</td>
<td>Course Outcome 4</td>
<td>5/6</td>
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Grading Criteria

Each assignment document includes evaluation criteria for all course outcomes and assignment learning objectives.

SLIM Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score 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 courses, 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. In addition, if a student has a semester GPA of less than 3.0 he or she will be given an academic warning.

When a student has been given an academic warning, an administrative hold will be placed on the student’s record to block future enrollment, and the student will be removed from any registered courses for the upcoming semester. Before the student can be enrolled, he or she is required to meet with the student’s 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 upon satisfactory completion of the academic improvement plan.

If the student fails to complete the terms set forth in the academic improvement plan, then the student’s academic progress will be reviewed by the student’s academic advisor and the SLIM dean, and a decision will be made regarding whether the student should be academically dismissed from SLIM’s graduate program.

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/transcript/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