Course Syllabus

LI 810 XA

Research in Library and Information Science

Fall Semester 2018

Faculty: Jinxuan Ma
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Primary Phone: 620-341-5320
Online Course Login: canvas.emporia.edu
Credit Hours: 3
Meetings: Internet begins 8/20
Weekends: 9/28–29 and 11/16–17

Important Dates for Fall 2018

8/20 First Day of Class 8/31 Last Day to Add/Drop 11/19 Last Day to Withdraw
12/7 Last Day of Classes 12/10-14 Finals Week 12/15 Commencement
12/18 Final Grades Due
Program Goal

The goal of the SLIM Master of Library Science program is to prepare creative problem solvers who will provide proactive client-centered services in information agencies.

Catalog Description

(Prerequisite: LI 801 or concurrent enrollment.) This course provides an introduction to qualitative and quantitative research methods and their applications in library and information science. Principles and procedures for analyzing and evaluating research are introduced and students learn to be better consumers and critics of published research literature. (Required) (Approved 8/12/2015)

Course Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By the end of the course, students will be able to:</th>
<th>Program Outcomes</th>
<th>Professional Values</th>
<th>ALA Core Competence(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Describe the importance of research to the practice of library and information science.</td>
<td>6, 7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6C, 7D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Discuss ethical issues involved in conducting research.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Explain the stages of the research process.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>6A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Define the characteristics of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>6A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Analyze, critique, and evaluate methods and findings from current library and information science literature.</td>
<td>6, 7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6B, 7D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved 11/30/11

Course Overview

This introductory research method course in Library and Information Science (LIS) will provide an overview of the basic issues and major methods that information professionals should consider when analyzing and evaluating published literature regarding LIS research and information services. Students will learn how to propose and conduct a LIS research project through the course learning activities. This course is appropriate for students with no background in LIS research or analytical methods.
Instructor Contact Information

I can be reached at <jma4@emporia.edu> for any questions you might have regarding the course. Please use ONLY your ESU/Canvas Email account when emailing me. In most cases, I will respond to emails within 24 hours.

Regular weekly office hours will be held on Wednesday, 4–5 pm (CT) via ZOOM at <https://emporiastate.zoom.us/j/5121736354>. However, I am happy to arrange a meeting with you outside of regular office hours.

Required Readings

Manual


Textbook


Note: any editions after the 5th will work

Both the manual and textbooks are required for purchase. Please check the e-book of Drs. Small & Mardis at ESU library.

Recommended Readings (optional)

Learning Activities

You will be assessed through five course learning activities and participation.

1. Weekly Discussion Post (40 points):
   (1) Self-Introduction—W1 (3 points)
   (2) Read, Reflect, & React—W2, 3, 9, 10, 11, & 12 (12 points)
      The weekly readings and learning activities of each week are required. However, four out of six are required posts; two extra credit posts as the two lowest scores will be dropped from the final grade.
   (3) Course Activities—W4, 5, 7, 8, & 15 (25 points)
      You are required to read the assigned number of articles on the reading list in addition to the assigned textbook chapters per week.

      Participate in five research method course activities, including brainstorming good research questions, practicing research abstract writing, and analyzing ethics cases. Topics and more information will be outlined on the Discussion Forum.

2. Writing Research Questions and Observational Report (15 points):
   For our first face-to-face weekend on Sept. 28–29, 2018, you are required to write research questions of your interested course research project (the professor will walk you through this process during our weekend class). You will also write a report of an observational study, which will be conducted by group during our meeting. More details will be posted on Canvas.

3. Research & Poster Presentation (15 points):
   You are required to present a LIS conference poster and presentation on your proposed research project during our second face-to-face meeting on Nov. 17, 2018. More details will be available on Canvas.

4. Research Proposal Paper (25 points):
   Your final paper for the course is a research proposal built upon the course weekly course activities and tasks about your chosen research topic. More instructions on this project will follow.

5. Course Participation Evaluation (5 points):
   You are required to participate in both individual and collaborative learning activities through the class. Detailed instructions are available on Canvas.
Assignments

The following is a summary of the assignments and their point values (with more detailed descriptions to be posted on Canvas).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Course Outcome(s) Met</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Discussion &amp; Course Activities</td>
<td>1–5</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Questions &amp; Observational Report</td>
<td>2–5</td>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Poster Presentation</td>
<td>1–5</td>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal Paper</td>
<td>1–5</td>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Participation Evaluation</td>
<td>1–5</td>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tentative Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Additional Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1: 8/20–9/2</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>First class day Aug. 20, check other due dates through each Module!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2: 9/3–9/23</td>
<td>Understanding Research Inquiry &amp; Methods</td>
<td>Prepare for the first weekend meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 5: 11/26–12/7</td>
<td>Proposing &amp; Presenting Research Findings</td>
<td>Last class day Dec. 7</td>
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SLIM Technology Requirements

SLIM has specific hardware, software and network requirements for all students that are specified on the SLIM website at http://tinyurl.com/SLIMtechnology. Computer technology is integrated throughout the curriculum, including the use of Canvas, ESU’s learning management system, and use of video-conferencing software. All students must have devices, high-speed Internet access, and current software for home use that makes possible full participation in extensive course assignments. The ESU financial aid office provides details about possible funding for purchase of computer equipment at https://www.emporia.edu/finaid/.

Grading Criteria

REQUIRED: These criteria should identify all the elements required and the degree of achievement necessary for each assignment.

SLIM Grading Scale

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

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. (Updated 8/26/2014)

**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

Course evaluation is an important part of the process of teaching and learning. SLIM uses the IDEA evaluation instrument to gather feedback from students on the effectiveness of each and every course. The resulting data is reviewed by the instructors and the Dean, who work together to improve teaching and learning across the whole of SLIM. 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 through the Campus Labs platform, and student responses are anonymous (unless students share any identifying information in their comments). Nobody in SLIM has access to individual student surveys at any time, and aggregated data is only made available to instructors at least one week after final grades have been submitted. (Updated 4/16/2015)

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.

Diversity & Inclusivity Policy

Emporia State University supports an inclusive learning environment where diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, appreciated, and recognized as a source of strength. We expect that students and faculty at Emporia State will respect differences and demonstrate diligence in understanding how other people’s perspectives, behaviors, and worldviews may be different from their own. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or your experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify the unit head (Department Chair or equivalent) as soon as possible, and/or contact the office of the Assistant Dean of Students for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

Accessibility Policy

Emporia State University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students need to contact the Director of Student Accessibility & Support Services (formerly Disability Services) each semester and as early in the semester as possible to ensure that classroom and academic accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Students should then contact the professor with documentation from Student Accessibility and Support Services. All communication between students, Student Accessibility and Support Services, and the professor will be strictly confidential.

Contact information for Student Accessibility and Support Services:

Student Accessibility and Support 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