UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION STUDIES

INFOST 799 – Research Methods in Information Studies, Section 202
Spring 2019
DRAFT Syllabus (subject to change)

Instructor: Dietmar Wolfram
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Office: NWQ 3569
Phone: 414-229-4707
Office Hours: TBA
Meeting Times: This is a Web-based class. There are no formal class meeting times. However, participation in at least three chat topic areas is expected. Chats will be scheduled based on student availability. At least five chat topic areas are planned.

DESCRIPTION:
Knowledge of research concepts, methods, and evaluation in library and information science, and applications of research in the information professions
3 graduate credits

PREREQUISITES: Grad st; INFOST 501; 511; 571
Basic computer literacy as outlined in the SOIS policy is required.

OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of research to theory and practice in library and information science (discussion)
2. Identify the range of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed research methods used in library and information science (discussion, test)
3. Understand at a functional level basic data analysis techniques used in library and information science research (data analysis exercise)
4. Evaluate the merits of published research in library and information science (critical reviews)
5. Identify a research problem and associated research questions, and design a research project to address the identified research problem (research proposal)
6. Understand the role of research methods within diversity and equality contexts (discussion)
7. Use basic statistical tools to conduct basic data analysis (data analysis exercise)
8. Use basic statistical tools to conduct basic data analysis (data analysis exercise)
METHOD: Lecture/Discussion

Students with special needs should contact the instructor as early as possible for accommodations.

TEXT


As an alternative to the Vaughan book, I recommend the following freely available open access book:

Readings will also be assigned from other sources available through the Canvas course site or on the Web.

WORKLOAD

This is a 3-credit, 700-level U/G course. As an online course, you can expect to devote about 10 hours a week on average between the assigned readings, viewing the course content, completing assignments, and reading and participating in the weekly discussions.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

The course schedule will be finalized towards the beginning of semester. Topics will include

- Overview of Research in Library and Information Science
- The Research Process
- Ethical Issues in Research & Institutional Review Boards
- The Research Proposal and Report; Evaluating Research
- Survey Research I: Overview & Sampling
- Survey Research II: Design
- Experimental Research
- Qualitative Research
- Historical Research
- Introduction to Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
- Funding & Disseminating Research
ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic policies may be found on the UWM Web site at: http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/. Additional policies may be found at the end of the syllabus.

ASSIGNMENTS

Written assignments are due by 11:59pm CDT/CST on the specified date. Grades will be reduced for late papers (one full grade for each week or part thereof) unless there are extenuating circumstances. Written assignments are to be typed, preferably word-processed. Papers are to be double-spaced using a 12-point font with 1 inch margins. You may not resubmit work that has already been used in fulfillment of the requirement of this or any other course. Rules of academic conduct require that you not use the work of others without clearly indicating it as such. Academic misconduct may result in a lowered grade, no credit for a given assignment, or removal from the course. It is expected students will consult and appropriately cite the research and professional literature where appropriate. Grades will also be reduced for papers that include irrelevant content to “fill up space” to meet the length specifications for a paper. An example of this practice is submitting a paper that presents a cursory treatment of several topics when a detailed treatment of a single topic is expected.

Please rely on a commonly used style manual for your submissions (e.g. Turabian, Chicago, APA, MLA), for referencing sources in particular. These are available in the UWM Bookstore or may be purchased through online book vendors. If you are uncertain about how to cite electronic sources, consult one of the many electronic guides to citing electronic sources available on the net. Minimal reference content includes: author (if known), date (if given), title, URL, and date accessed. A good starting point for referencing electronic sources is available at: http://www.libraryspot.com/grammarstyle.htm.

The course assignment requirements will comprise:

1. Critical reviews of research studies (2)
2. Test
3. Quantitative & qualitative data analysis exercise
4. Research Proposal
   Pre-proposal
   Methods Summary
   Full Proposal

CLASS PARTICIPATION

It is expected that students will participate in the discussions and chats on a regular basis. Not participating on a regular basis will result in a substantial penalty in your class participation grade and ultimately the final grade for the course regardless of how well you performed on the
assignments for the class. Participation implies keeping up with class materials, posting contributions that are productive and insightful in addition to reading and responding to your classmates’ postings, along with participating in a subset of the scheduled chats. Regular participation also means that you are contributing to discussions on a consistent basis throughout the course and not just during selected weeks or only during the eleventh hour of each week’s discussion.

EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Reviews (2)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Analysis Exercise</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Pre-proposal &amp; Methodology</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Proposal</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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GRADE ASSIGNMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>superior work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-95</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-90</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>satisfactory, but distinguished work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>work is below standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>unsatisfactory work</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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GRADE REQUIREMENT FOR MLIS STUDENTS:

If you are pursuing an MLIS degree, you need to earn at least a B to pass this course. See the policy at: [http://www4.uwm.edu/sois/programs/graduate/mlis/degreereq.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/sois/programs/graduate/mlis/degreereq.cfm).

UWM AND SOIS ACADEMIC POLICIES

The following links contain university policies affecting all SOIS students. Many of the links below may be accessed through a PDF-document maintained by the Secretary of the University: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf). For graduate students, there are guidelines from the Graduate School ([http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/academic-policies-procedures/](http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/academic-policies-procedures/)).