August 29  Introduction to Government Information and Electronic Distribution; the Sept. 5 Role of the Government Printing Office and the Federal Depository Library  
**Program**  
Reading: chapters 1,2,15,16  
Work assigned: Sept. 5, Research Questions #1 (due Sept. 19)  
Sept. 5, Source Evaluation (due Oct. 17)  
Assignments due: none  

Sept. 12  

Sept. 19  Legislative Branch Information, the Role of Private Vendors,  
Sept. 26  Congressional Support Agencies  
**Program**  
Reading: chapter 3,4  
Work assigned: Sept. 19, Research Questions #2 (due Oct. 3)  
Sept. 19, Course Paper (due last day of class)  
Assignments due: Sept. 19, Research Questions #1  
(assigned Sept. 5)  

Oct. 3  Presidential Information, Treaties, Administrative Law  
Oct. 10  **Program**  
Reading: chapter 5,6,10,11  
Assignments due: Oct. 3, Research Questions #2  
(assigned Sept. 19)  

Oct. 17  Declassified Documents, Technical Reports and Patents  
**Program**  
Reading: chapter 6 (last part),7,12  
Work assigned: Oct. 17, Research Question #4 (Due Oct. 31)  
Assignments due: Oct. 17, Research Questions #3  
(assigned Oct. 3)  
Oct. 17, Source Evaluation  
(assigned Sept. 5)  

Oct. 24  Statistical Sources and Government Datasets  
Oct. 31  **Program**  
Reading: chapter 13  
Work assigned: Oct. 31, Research Questions #5 (Due Nov. 14)  
Assignment due: Oct. 31, Research Questions #4  
(assigned Oct. 17)
Nov. 7  Geographic Information Systems & Geospatial Data
Reading:  chapter 14 and other provided by instructor
Work assigned:  NONE
Assignments due:  NONE

Nov. 14  Introduction to International/Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs)
Reading:  provided by instructor
Work assigned:  Nov. 14, Research Questions #6 (Due Nov. 28)
Assignments due:  Nov. 14, Research Questions #5 (assigned Oct. 31)

Nov. 21  NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 28  Government Maps
Reading:  chapter 14
Work assigned:  none
Assignments due:  Research Questions #6 (assigned Nov. 14)

Dec. 5  Class Presentations and Wrap Up
Work assigned:  none
Assignments due:  Courses Paper/Project (assigned Sept. 14)


Grades will be computed as follows:
50% research questions
20% source evaluation
20% project/paper
10% class participation

Instructor:  Jim Gillispie
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ATENDANCE and ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:
Students are expected to attend class, and complete assignments and readings on time. Emergency situations that may prevent you from meeting these requirements should be discussed with the instructor.
ACADEMIC HONESTY:
You'll find Academic Affairs policies on "Academic Dishonesty" and on "Unethical Practices" in the University Policies and Procedures web page at http://policies.cua.edu/. You are held responsible for adhering to these policies. Incidences of academic dishonesty, defined by the University as "failure to observe rules of fairness in taking exams or writing papers, plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating" will result in a grade of F (0 points) on the project or exam in question, and will be reported to the Dean for possible further action (including failure in the course).

ADA ACCOMMODATION:
Students with disabilities requiring accommodation under federal regulations must present a written accommodation request to the instructor by the second class meeting. It is strongly recommended that the student contact the Office of Disability Support Services, Suite 207, Pryzbyla Center (202-319-5211; email cua-disabilityservices@cua.edu, web http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu/). This is the University office responsible for disability accommodation and services, and its staff can answer questions about services and requirements regarding documentation. Special accommodations or other arrangements cannot be made without documentation approved by this office.
Government Information  
LSC 782  
Course Objectives

As a result of this course, the student will:

1. Develop competency in answering government information reference questions using primary sources, commercial publications and electronic databases.

2. Gain experience evaluating and comparing competing government information products and services.

3. Learn to use government statistical datasets and a geographic information system to manipulate, query, and map government collected data.

4. Understand the relations between government functions and publishing.

5. Know the bibliographic control used for government information.


7. Understand the documentation and publications of the major international/intergovernmental organizations.

8. Correctly cite government publications.
Government Information
LSC 782
Fall 2007 Course Requirements

Students are responsible for completing six sets of Research Questions, a Source Evaluation, and a Course Project/Paper by the due dates on the course syllabus and according to the following guidelines:

1. **Research Questions**: Assigned every week and due one week later at the beginning of class. Students are encouraged to confer with each other while completing each exercise. Each student, however, must turn in his or her own assignment. In completing the research questions, students should include a full citation, in proper form, for the source that answers each question*. Also include with each question a “research log” as described below**.

* Include SuDoc Numbers and/or URLs. Consult class handouts.

** Keep a record of the steps (research log) taken in the resolution of each research question. Usually this process works best in a chart or brief narrative form. In general, note sources examined, headings/entries used, cross-references given etc. List sources consulted in which no relevant information was found along with those sources that proved more fruitful.

2. **The Source Evaluation**: This assignment will require students to compare and critically evaluate two of the sources introduced in the first half of the course. The finished evaluation should be approximately seven to ten pages in length, double-spaced. Students are expected to work independently on the Source Evaluation.

3. For the **Course Paper/Project**, each student will visit and evaluate a library that collects a substantial amount of government publications, OR compare and evaluate two depository library sites on the web. The paper will describe and discuss how the library organizes, manages and provides reader access to government information. In each case, students must consider the implications of the practices and decisions made by the particular library and the potential impact on readers. The paper should be ten to twelve pages in length, double-spaced. Additionally, students will summarize their findings and briefly present them to the class during a final class session.

8/07