LSC 704: Humanities Information
Fall, 2009
Graduate Syllabus

3 credit hours
Prerequisites: 553 or 9 credits of graduate credit in a humanities discipline
Classroom: 213 Marist

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Course Description

Humanities information needs and information-seeking behavior of different user groups. Disciplines include philosophy, religion, the visual arts, the performing arts, and languages and literatures. Emphasis on access to resources in all formats. Trends and problems in the humanities and in humanities information services. Prerequisite: 553 or 9 credits of graduate credit in a humanities discipline.

Instructional Methods

Lectures in classroom, Blackboard.

Required Text


Recommended Texts

Available online: [http://www.digitalhumanities.org/companion/](http://www.digitalhumanities.org/companion/)

Course Goals
The course is designed to provide students with a foundation on doing humanities research. Specifically, the student will gain an understanding of the wide variety of reference material, editions, bibliographical resources, and web sites. In addition, the course emphasizes the methodologies of accessing information, locating principal information sources, identifying and assessing users’ needs, and research trends in searching for information. Students will be expected to evaluate sources, develop appropriate search methods and techniques, and discuss issues in the humanities.

Goals for Student Learning
At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to sit at a reference research desk and answer reference/research questions having mastered a variety of research tools used in the humanities.

Professional Standards Addressed
- American Library Association (ALA)
  http://www.ala.org/ala/accreditation/accredstandards/DraftCoreCompetencies.pdf
- Association of College and Research Libraries
- Literatures in English Section
- LES Research Competency Guidelines for Literatures in English
  http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/literaturesineng/lescompetency.cfm

Course Requirements and Assessment
- Four research assignments (25%)
- One pathfinder (4 pages long) guiding an undergraduate/graduate to reference sources
  in a Humanities subject of your choice (20%)
- Oral presentations (10%)
- One final research paper (8-10 pages) (30%)
- Take home final exam (15%)

Expectations and policies

**Academic honesty:** Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of a student’s own work, cheating, and fabrication.

The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty (from http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm):

“The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student’s past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate. In the context of graduate studies, the expectations for academic honesty are greater, and therefore the presumed sanction for dishonesty is likely to be more severe, e.g., expulsion. ...In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction.”

Please review the complete texts of the University policy and procedures regarding Student Academic Dishonesty, including requirements for appeals, at http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm and http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm.
Attendance. Show up and be on time! It is CUA Policy that attendance is mandatory. Attendance is important as there will be many topics, examples, etc. that will discussed in class but not found in the textbook or the reading material. Absences will affect your final grade. Let me know before class if you will be absent.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202 319-5211, room 207 Pryzbyla Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website: http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu.

University grades:
The University grading system is available at
http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad//gradesfull.cfm#II for undergraduates and
http://policies.cua.edu/academicgrad//gradesfull.cfm#iii for graduate students.
Reports of grades in courses are available at the end of each term on http://cardinalstation.cua.edu.

NOTE: Friday, September 11th is the last day to register or add courses for credit; last day to drop a course without record.

Course Schedule

September 2
Introduction to the course. What are the Humanities?
Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp. 1-11.


September 9
General Resources to the Humanities, Philosophy
Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp.13-63.


September 16

Religion. World Religion. Folklore. Mythology. [Research Questions #1 handed out]

Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp.65-146.


September 23 (Greek and Latin Seminar Room)

Christianity. Theology. Biblical Studies.

Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp.65-146.


September 30 (Greek and Latin Seminar Room)

Visual Arts. Painting, Drawing, Print.

Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp.147-204.


October 7

**Architecture. Applied Arts. Sculpture. Photography [Research Questions #1 due, Research Questions #2 handed out]**

Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp.205-248.


October 14

**Performing Arts (I): General Overview. Music**

Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp. 249-325.


October 21

**Performing Arts (II): Dance, Drama and Theatre [Research Questions #2 due, Research Questions #3 handed out]**

Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp. 325-361


October 28

**Performing Arts (III): Film, Radio, Television, New Media.**

Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp.361-389.

November 4

**General Resources in Language. Linguistics. Literature. [Presentations given]**

Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp.391-441.


November 11


Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp. 451-504.


November 18

**Modern Languages. Translation studies. [Pathfinder project due]**

Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp. 416-421, 505-524.

Kellsey, C. Crisis in foreign language expertise in research libraries: How do we fill this gap? College & Research Libraries News v. 64 no. 6 (June 2003) p. 391-2, 397.


November 25 **NO CLASS--THANKSGIVING WEEK**

December 2

**Issues and Trends in the Digital Humanities (I) [Research Questions #4 due, Take home final exam given]**


Digital Humanities Manifesto 2.0. UCLA Digital Humanities and Media Studies (http://www.digitalhumanities.ucla.edu/).


December 9


Bibliography

Updated Source Lists, current Research Guides, supplementary readings, and websites of interest, will be handed out during the course.

Delicious Bookmarks
Delicious.com/kevingunn/humanities