School of Library and Information Science
LSC 634: Humanities Information
Fall, 2011

TENTATIVE

3 credit hours
Prerequisites: 553 or 9 credits of graduate credit in a humanities discipline
Classroom: 312 McMahon

Kevin Gunn, M.A., M.L.I.S.
Coordinator of Religious Studies and Humanities Services
314 Mullen Library
1-202-319-5088
mailto:gunn@cua.edu
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (by appointment is preferred).

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

Assigned readings

Recommended Texts

Blazek, Ron and Elizabeth Aversa. The Humanities: A Selective Guide to Information Sources. 5th
DO NOT BUY.

Available online: 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/educationcareers/careers/corecomp/corecompetences/finalcorecompstat09.pdf

Association of College and Research Libraries
Literatures in English Section
LES Research Competency Guidelines for Literatures in English
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/researchcompetenciesles.cfm

ARLIS/NA Core Competencies for Art Information Professionals
http://www.arlisna.org/resources/onlinepubs/corecomps.pdf

Music Library Association
Core Competencies and Music Librarians
http://www.musiclibraryassoc.org/uploadedFiles/Employment_and_Education/Music_Librarianship/Core_Competencies.pdf?n=7658

Course Requirements and Assessment

Critical edition assignment (10%)
Presentation of a resource (5%)
Four research assignments (25%)
One research guide using LibGuides software guiding an undergraduate/graduate to reference sources in a Humanities subject (30%, draft and final version)
Digital Humanities project (10%)
One final research paper (8-10 pages) (20%)

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.

Libraries The CUA Libraries' wide range of resources and services, including databases, online journals, and FAQs are on the main web site (http://libraries.cua.edu). For assistance on papers and assignments, consult the research guides (http://guides.lib.cua.edu/) or schedule an appointment with a subject librarian (http://libraries.cua.edu/about/subjLibs.cfm).

NOTE: Friday, September 9th is the last day to register or add courses for credit; last day to drop a course without record.

Course Schedule
August 30
Introduction to the course. What are the Humanities?
Required Readings:
- Blazek/Aversa, pp. 1-11.

September 6

**General Resources to the Humanities, Philosophy**

Required Readings:
- Blazek/Aversa, pp.27-39.

September 13

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

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


September 20 (Room 322 Mullen)

**Christianity. Theology. Biblical Studies. [Critical Edition Assignment due]**

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


September 27

**History**

Required Readings:

October 4

**Visual Arts. Painting, Drawing, Print. [Research Questions #1 due, Research Questions #2 handed out]**

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


October 11  **NO CLASS Administration Thursday (classes on Thursday meet Tuesday)**

October 18


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

Performing Arts (I): General Overview. Music
Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp. 249-325.


October 25
Performing Arts (II): Dance, Drama and Theatre, Film, Radio, Television, New Media. [Research Questions #2 due, Research Questions #3 handed out]
Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp. 325-389.


November 1
General Resources in Language. Linguistics. Literature. [Presentations given, LibGuides draft due]
Required Readings: Blazek/Aversa, pp.391-441.


November 8

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

November 15

Modern Languages. Translation studies.
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 22 NO CLASS--THANKSGIVING WEEK

November 29

Issues and Trends in the Digital Humanities (I) [Research Questions #4 due]
(Reserve AZ195 .B67 2007)
  Digital Humanities Manifesto 2.0. UCLA Digital Humanities and Media Studies (http://www.digitalhumanities.ucla.edu/).

December 6
Issues and Trends in the Digital Humanities (II). Last class: recap of course.
Student evaluations. [Digital Humanities project due] [LibGuides project due]

December 13th
Final research paper is due.

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

Revised 08/22/2011