LSC 636, Section 01
Social Science Information
Spring 2011
Syllabus, Preliminary Version, January 3, 2011

3 Credit Hours
Prerequisite: 553 or 9 credits of graduate credit in a social science discipline.
Classroom: Marist Hall, Room 109
Mondays, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

NOTE: This Syllabus is Subject to Change

Instructor: David Shumaker
Office: 239 Marist Hall
Hours: By appointment
E-mail: shumaker@cua.edu Phone: 202-319-5551

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Survey of information resources for the social sciences. Disciplines include anthropology, economics, education, ethnic and gender studies, geography, history, law, political science, and sociology. Emphasizes research techniques utilizing resources in all formats. Covers trends and problems in the social sciences and in social science information services.

Instructional Methods
The course may incorporate lecture/discussion; guest speakers; group presentations; and research projects. Class meetings will be supplemented by announcements, discussion, and other materials posted on the class Blackboard site (http://bb8.cua.edu).

Optional Texts


Required Readings


**Required Technologies**

**Capabilities Required for Course Delivery and Student Participation:** Blackboard; Microsoft Office or interoperable counterpart; standard CUA software; CUA library and information system accounts; ability to use ALADIN digital library resources. Every student should have daily access to a computer and high speed internet access.

**Tools and Technologies Taught:** This course incorporates the use of RefWorks, a personal bibliography management application, and LibGuides, a content management tool for the creation of web-based guides to information resources.

**Other materials (e.g. lab supplies, calculators) with specifics of what is needed and how to obtain**

None.

**Course Goals**

The course goals are to:

- Identify, explore, use, and critically evaluate core information resources for Social Science disciplines
- Learn and apply strategies for conducting secondary research
- Learn and apply current tools and techniques for providing research guidance and delivering research results
- Discuss current trends and issues in scholarly communication as they apply to the Social Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objectives</th>
<th>SLIS Program Objectives (cf. <a href="http://slis.cua.edu/about/mission.cfm">http://slis.cua.edu/about/mission.cfm</a>)</th>
<th>Professional Competencies (cf. <a href="http://slis.cua.edu/res/docs/about/accreditation/documents/sliscompetenciesadopted20080326.pdf">http://slis.cua.edu/res/docs/about/accreditation/documents/sliscompetenciesadopted20080326.pdf</a>)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify, use and critically evaluate information resources for the Social Sciences</td>
<td>• Are skilled in organizing, disseminating, managing and preserving information</td>
<td>Information Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply current tools for the management and delivery of research results</td>
<td>• Are skilled in organizing, disseminating, managing and preserving information • Are skilled in the use of information technologies and articulate the role of information</td>
<td>Information Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Apply current tools and techniques for providing research guidance and delivering research results | • Are skilled in organizing, disseminating, managing and preserving information  
• Are skilled in the use of information technologies and articulate the role of information technology in facilitating information management;  
• Appreciate education and service as integral to the role of the information professional in society | Information Services |
| Discuss current trends and issues in scholarly communication applicable to Social Sciences | • Are dedicated to professional growth, continuous learning, and applying new knowledge to improve information systems and services to meet the needs of information users in society | Professional Identity |

**Professional Standards Addressed**
This course addresses competency area B, “Managing Information Resources” and C “Managing Information Services”, of the “Competencies for Information Professionals of the 21st Century,” revised June 2003, by Eileen Abels, Rebecca Jones, John Latham, Dee Magnoni, Joanne Gard Marshall. ([http://www.sla.org/content/learn/comp2003/index.cfm](http://www.sla.org/content/learn/comp2003/index.cfm)). Special emphasis is given to Competencies B3:

“Demonstrates expert knowledge of the content and format of information resources, including the ability to critically evaluate, select and filter them.”

And C3:

“Researches, analyzes and synthesizes information into accurate answers or actionable information for clients, and ensures that clients have the tools or capabilities to immediately apply these.”

It also addresses many of the “Research Analysis and Search Strategies” and “Research Tools and Services” competencies of the “Federal Librarian Competencies”, established by the Federal.
Course Requirements
Assignments and their weighting in the overall course grade are:

1. **RefWorks Bibliography Exercise (10%)** Each student will compile a short bibliography using RefWorks.
2. **Social Science Research Exercises (3 @ 10% each)** These exercises will provide the opportunity to explore in depth resources and tools introduced in class.
3. **LibGuide Project (50%)** Each student will compile an annotated guide to the literature on a social sciences topic of the student’s choice.
   a. **Draft (10%)**
   b. **Intermediate Update (10%)**
   c. **Final (30%)**
4. **In-Person and Online Class Participation (10%)** Each student’s learning experience depends on active class participation. Regular attendance and active participation both in class and online are expected. Those who contribute most to the course knowledge base will receive the highest grades in this area.

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.

**Other Policies and Expectations.**
Successful completion of this course entails on-time delivery of assignments, work that meets or exceeds the standard for graduate-level programs, and regular, active participation in class discussions, exercises, and activities. Class attendance and participation are important. If you must miss a class for any reason, you are expected to notify the instructor as early as possible, and to take responsibility for catching up and making up any work missed. Students must have access to word processing and presentation software, email, CUA libraries and the ALADIN
system, and the World Wide Web. Students should check the course Blackboard site at least 2-3 times a week for updates.

Assignments are due before class on the date indicated. Unless prior permission is obtained, the grade for late assignments will be reduced by 4 points (out of 100) per day; however, any work not turned in on or before the end of the term will receive a zero grade. Grades are based on work submitted; rewriting, resubmission, and extra credit are not allowed.

In case of bad weather, students should monitor official CUA media for announcements. If class is canceled due to bad weather or any other unexpected reason, the instructor will communicate alternative arrangements via Blackboard.

**Important University Resources:**

**CUA Computer and Network Resources:**
All students should be familiar with and use their:
- NT (CUA network) account information
- Cardinalmail account
- Blackboard account

Contact the Center for Planning and Information Technology at 202-319-4357 for assistance.

**CUA Libraries:**
All students should be able to use the CUA library resources, including the ALADIN online system. Visit the CUA Library homepage at [http://libraries.cua.edu](http://libraries.cua.edu) for assistance and directions. See also the Mullen Library welcome page at [http://libraries.cua.edu/welcome.html](http://libraries.cua.edu/welcome.html), or phone (202) 319-5070.

**CUA Center for Academic Success:**
See [http://success.cua.edu](http://success.cua.edu)
Pryzbyla Center
Phone: (202) 319-5655

**CUA Counseling Center:**
See [http://counseling.cua.edu/services/](http://counseling.cua.edu/services/)
127 O'Boyle Hall
Phone: (202) 319-5765

**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](http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu).

**Assessment**
**Assignment** | **Weight**  
---|---  
Initial Refworks Bibliography | 10%  
Research Exercises (3 @ 10%) | 30%  
LibGuide Project (Initial Draft – 10%; Intermediate Draft - 10%; Final – 30%) | 50%  
Class Participation | 10%  
**Total** | **100%**

Based on scores for individual assignments, final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-90</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82-88</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-81</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;70</td>
<td>F</td>
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**University grades:**  
The University grading system is available at [http://policies.cua.edu/academicgrad//gradesfull.cfm#iii](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](http://cardinalstation.cua.edu).

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Number and Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Jan. 10 | Class 1: Introductions of students and instructor  
Course overview  
Discipline: General Social Sciences  
Theme: RefWorks | Read: Ellis; IFLA; Meho; Westbrook (Social Science…)  
Assigned: Initial RefWorks Bibliography |
<p>| Jan. 17 | Martin Luther King Day: No Class |  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class:</th>
<th>Read:</th>
<th>Assigned:</th>
<th>Due:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>Class 3: Political Science, Part 2 Theme: Interdisciplinary Nature of the Social Sciences</td>
<td>Denda; Dogan; Westbrook (Area and Interdisciplinary …)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Class 4: Economics Theme: LibGuides Part 2</td>
<td>Cole</td>
<td>Research Exercise 1</td>
<td>Initial LibGuide Draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>Class 5: Business Theme: Open Access</td>
<td>Abels; Coman; Helfert; Kriebel; Norris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>Class 6: History, Part 1 Theme: LibGuides Part 3</td>
<td>Dalton</td>
<td>Research Exercise 2</td>
<td>Research Exercise 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>Class 7: History, Part 2</td>
<td>Rector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 28</td>
<td>Class 8: Sociology Theme: Data Services, Repositories</td>
<td>Antelman; DeWitt; Johnson; Kearl; Read; Shen</td>
<td></td>
<td>Research Exercise 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>No Class: Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Class 9: Geography, Part 1</td>
<td>Corley</td>
<td></td>
<td>LibGuide Intermediate Draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Class 10: Geography, Part 2 Theme: Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Research Exercise 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Class 11: Anthropology</td>
<td>Kotter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Discipline(s)</td>
<td>Read:</td>
<td>Due:</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Class 12</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Schweitzer</td>
<td>Research Exercise 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Class 13</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Cheney; DeDecker</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Class 14</td>
<td>Communication, Linguistics</td>
<td>Andersen; Dervin; Wilson</td>
<td>Final LibGuide</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No Class: Easter Recess</td>
<td>No Final Exam</td>
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**NOTE:**
The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus.