



**The Catholic University of America  
School of Library and Information Science**

**LSC 675 Research Methods in Library and Information Science  
Spring 2012**

*Last update January 4, 2012*

*Note: This syllabus is subject to change.*

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: 551

Classroom: McMahon 312

Class time: Mondays 4:10 PM - 6:40 PM

Instructor: Sung Un Kim, Ph.D.

Office: 244 Marist Hall

Phone: 202-319-6040

Email: [kimi@cua.edu](mailto:kimi@cua.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM or by  
appointment

### **Course Description**

Covers the analysis and evaluation of research studies in library and information science and the application of analytical and evaluative techniques. Surveys research processes, including problem definition, design, sampling, measurement, data collection and analysis, and the applications of research findings to solving practical problems of libraries and information centers. Includes research design and proposal writing. No previous statistical or research background required.

### **Goals and Course Objectives**

This course will provide the student with:

- A solid introduction to the nature and paradigms of research as a type of scientific inquiry
- Ability to construct meaningful research questions and research hypotheses within library and information science
- Awareness and comprehension of a variety of qualitative and quantitative methodologies allowing for the selection of appropriate research design and data collection technique for any given research question
- Understanding of the process and iterative nature of research
- A basic understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics, and familiarity with a sampling of specific statistical methods for data analysis.

**Instructional Methods**

This course will be delivered in a blended format. We will have a classroom meeting from 4:10PM - 6:40PM on 1/9, 1/23, 2/6, 2/20, 3/12, 3/26, 4/16, 4/30. The rest of the sessions will be run through asynchronous online discussion through the Edmodo (<http://www.edmodo.com>). Also, course materials will be shared through the Edmodo.

**Required Texts**

Connaway, L. S., & Powell, R. R. (2010). Basic Research Methods for Librarians (Edition 5). Libraries Unlimited. ISBN-13: 9781591588634, ISBN: 1591588634.

**Recommended Texts**

Creswell, J. W. (2008). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches (Edition 3). Sage Publications. ISBN-13: 9781412965576, ISBN: 1412965578

**Additional Reading Materials**

Readings are specified for each week and students are required to complete the readings and be ready for class discussion.

**Required Technologies**

The following capabilities are required for course delivery:

- Navigate the web and conduct basic web searches. Save a web page to local computer. Access a web page by entering its URL directly into the web browser.
- Use basic features of Windows XP, such as the Start menu and other program menus, cut-and-paste, moving files between folders and external media like a USB drive.
- Log in to the CUA network (via Windows XP) and the Home@CUA web-based system.
- Send and receive email using the CUA email system.
- Use ALADIN to find books and articles.
- Access this course on Edmodo, view this syllabus and related information available, and post a personal introduction on the discussion forum.
- Post to a web-based discussion forum.
- Create a Microsoft Word or PowerPoint document and apply basic formatting such as fonts, font sizes and color.
- You also need regular access to the Internet (i.e., at least every other day).

If you do not feel confident of your mastery of these skills, don't panic. Instead, contact the instructor at [kimi@cua.edu](mailto:kimi@cua.edu) before the course starts. I can help you find resources to fill in any gaps early in the semester.

The following technologies are taught as an essential part of this course:

- Manage numerical data with Microsoft Excel.
- Learn about data analysis technologies.
- Use a social media site (Edmodo) for your learning activities.

**Course Requirements & Assessment**

Assignment	Percentage (%)
Quiz 1, 2, 3	15 (5 for each)
Assignment 1: Critical review of a research paper	15
Assignment 2: Data collection techniques	15
Term project: Research proposal and presentation	40
Class Participation	15
Total	100

Written assignments will be accompanied by a scoring rubric which will be discussed when each assignment is detailed. The following grading scale will be used:

A 94-100  
 A- 90-93.99  
 B+ 86-89.99  
 B 82-85.99  
 B- 78-81.99  
 C 70-77.99  
 F Below 70

**University Grades**

The University grading system is available at <http://policies.cua.edu/academicgrad/gradesfull.cfm#iii> for graduate students. Students will accumulate total points by completing all the requirements. Course total points will be converted to University grades at the end of the semester. Reports of grades are available at the end of each term on <http://cardinalstation.cua.edu>.

**Assignment Guidelines**

**Submission:** Assignments must be submitted on time, so that they can be graded consistently and discussed in the class sessions following the due date.

**Paper Formats:** Papers must conform to a standardized format such as APA standard format that you prefer. Please consult the manuals and guidelines including <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

The following items must be given at the top of your papers:

- Student's name
- Course number (LSC 675: Research Methods in Library and Information Science)
- Assignment number as listed in the schedule

Please note that for this course, all papers must use the following style guidelines: double spaced; 12 point, Times New Roman or Arial font; pages numbered in the upper right corner of each page corner.

## **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>

### **Additional Expectations and Policies**

- Attend and participate in all class sessions. Absences will have a negative impact on your grade. In the case of an excused absence, students may make it up by completing an extra assignment. See the instructor for details.
- Complete readings as assigned and be prepared for each class discussion. Class participation is an important component of your final grade.
- Students are expected to arrive for class on time.
- Cell phone calls, texting, and email are not allowed during class.
- Submit written assignments on time. No late assignments are accepted.

### **Campus Resources for Student Support**

#### CPIT Help Desk

The Center for Planning and Information Technology (CPIT) staffs a help desk from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday. They are available to assist you with problems regarding your CUA computer account or e-mail address, difficulty logging into or using CUA computers or software, and other general computing questions. Contact them at 202-319-4357 or [infocenter@cua.edu](mailto:infocenter@cua.edu) for assistance.

#### CUA Libraries

You can use the CUA library resources. For more information, visit the CUA libraries homepage at <http://libraries.cua.edu>, or call at 202-319-5070.

### 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 **in the first week of class** 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>.

### Course Schedule

*This schedule is subject to change depending on class needs. When supplementary readings are added, it will be announced in class or through the Edmodo (<http://www.edmodo.com>).*

Date	Topics	Readings	Due
Session 1 Jan 9 <i>Classroom</i>	Course overview  Introduction to research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powell (2010) Chapter 1</li> <li>• Luo, L. (2011). Fusing research into practice: The role of research methods education. <i>Library &amp; Information Science Research</i>, 33, 191-201.</li> </ul>	
No Class Jan 16	Martin Luther King Day		
Session 2 Jan 23 <i>Classroom</i>	Developing research studies  The role of theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powell (2010) Chapter 2</li> <li>• Hildreth, C. R., &amp; Aytac, S. (2007). Recent library practitioner research: A methodological analysis and critique. <i>Journal of Education for Library and Information Science</i>, 48, 3, 236-258.</li> </ul>	Term project: topic decision  (due Jan 23)
Session 3 Jan 24 – Jan 30 <i>Online</i>	Selecting the research method  Ethics of research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powell (2010) Chapter 3</li> </ul>	Quiz 1  Term project: introduction  (due Jan 30)
Session 4 Feb 6 <i>Classroom</i>	Review of the literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creswell (2008) Chapter 2</li> <li>• Hider, P., &amp; Pymm, B. (2008). Empirical research methods reported in high-profile LIS journal literature. <i>Library &amp; Information Science Research</i>, 30, 108-114.</li> </ul>	
Session 5 Feb 7 – 13 <i>Online</i>	Writing strategies  Grant writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creswell (2008) Chapter 4</li> <li>• MacKellar &amp; Gerding (2010) Chapter 7</li> </ul>	Term project: literature review  (due Feb 13)
Session 6	Survey research and sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powell (2010) Chapter 4</li> </ul>	

Feb 20 <i>Classroom</i>			
Session 7 Feb 21 – 27 <i>Online</i>	Data collection techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powell (2010) Chapter 5</li> </ul>	Quiz 2  Term project: the purpose statement and research questions/hypotheses  (due Feb 27)
Spring Recess (Mar 5 – 9)			
Session 8 Mar 12 <i>Classroom</i>	Experimental & quasi-experimental research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powell (2010) Chapter 6</li> </ul>	
Session 9 Mar 13 – 19 <i>Online</i>	Qualitative research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powell (2010) Chapter 7</li> </ul>	Assignment 1  (due Mar 19)
Session 10 Mar 26 <i>Classroom</i>	Mixed methods procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creswell (2008) Chapter 10</li> <li>• Fidel, R. (2008). Are we there yet?: Mixed methods research in library and information science. <i>Library &amp; Information Science Research</i>, 30, 265–272.</li> </ul>	
Session 11 Mar 27 – Apr 2 <i>Online</i>	Historical research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powell (2010) Chapter 8</li> </ul>	Term project: research methods  (due Apr 2)
Easter Holiday (Apr 5 – 9)			
Session 12 Apr 16 <i>Classroom</i>	Data analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powell (2010) Chapter 9</li> </ul>	
Session 13 Apr 17 – 23 <i>Online</i>	Writing a research proposal/research report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powell (2010) Chapter 10, 11</li> </ul>	Quiz 3  Assignment 2  (due Apr 23)

Session 14 Apr 30 <i>Classroom</i>	Wrap-up Course evaluation	Final presentation	Term project: finalize the research proposal  (due Apr 30)
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