

Eastern Oregon University
Course Syllabus

Course Name: Research Topic Exploration

Course Number: LIB 327

Credit Hours: 2

Course Description

Students participate in topic exploration, research question development, and research in preparation for a capstone, thesis, paper, or other culminating academic work; students will investigate scholarly communication within a discipline and use library resources, search tools, and citation management tools to locate and collect information.

Instructor: Pierce Library Faculty

Time and Location

This course is available online

Required Texts or Suggested Materials: No purchased text required.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to apply a research process to an academic project.
 - a. Students will articulate information needs according to the guidelines of a capstone/thesis/research paper/project
 - b. Students will identify the types and extent of information needed
 - c. Students will select and evaluate articles, papers, and other information relevant to a research topic.
2. Students will identify broad themes, concepts and theories in information relevant to a research topic.
3. Students will prepare a literature review related to the topic of culminating academic project.
4. Students will be able to use information and information technologies ethically and legally.

Means of Assessment

- Assignments/Quizzes/Discussion are designed to assess learning outcomes 1a, 1b, 1c, . Grading is outlined in detailed syllabus.
- Research Log is designed to assess learning outcomes 1a, 1b, 1c, 2.
- Literature review assesses learning outcomes 2, 3 and 4.

Grading Policies

1. The basis for students' final grade is weighted as follows:
 - 15% Discussion forum
 - 30% Assignments/quizzes
 - 25% Research Log
 - 30% Literature Review

2. Grades are assigned using the following percentage scale:

A	94% - 100%
A-	90% - 93%
B+	87% - 89%
B	84 % - 86%
B-	80% - 83%
C+	77% - 79%
C	74% - 76%
C-	70% - 73%
D	60% - 69%
F	00% – 59%F

Courses Requirements:

1. Demonstration of successful utilization of library and other Information sources.
2. Weekly participation in discussion forum
3. Weekly assignments
4. Faculty Interview
5. Research Log recording activity related to research
6. Literature Review

Brief Outline of Course:

The course is divided into units. Most units are one week in duration, but some may be longer. Each unit includes topics and learning objectives, required web-based reading assignments, written assignments, including research log entries, and participation in the class discussion forum. The readings (documents, videos, journal articles, etc.) provide the information needed to successfully complete the assignments in the course. Weekly topics include:

- Citation management / Research Log
- Citation styles and format
- Research within a discipline
- Identifying themes, concepts, theories related to a research topic
- Research tools and skills
- Research and reading information related to topic
- Thematic Literature Reviews

General Education Outcomes

This General Education Gateway course addresses the following outcomes:

- Learn and use the vocabulary, content, and conceptual knowledge in a variety of disciplines (CONTENT KNOWLEDGE)

Students are introduced to recognized research process methodology with emphasis on the initial stages of topic exploration and literature review.

Attention is paid to the vocabulary of relevant disciplines and concepts of how to prepare for a research project.

The course satisfies the criteria for SMI as it provides instruction in the information science discipline. It introduces concepts and techniques applicable in the search for information, requires students to evaluate the approach to research and evaluate appropriate processes to engage in a research project as well as survey the background literature relevant to the proposed research. Students are required to create an annotated bibliography relevant to the topic and discipline. The course requires students to utilize the research process addressed in the library discipline with particular focus at the initial steps in preparation for a major research project.

- Identify and explain issues, recognize contexts and assumptions, acknowledge multiple perspectives, evaluate evidence to reach conclusions. (CRITICAL THINKING)
 - While exploring the background of an identified topic, Students are required to identify major facets and issues related to the topic.
 - Students use the research process to analyze a problem, plan search strategies for locating information related to the project.
 - Students evaluate information sources, and information related to a developed research question.

University Writing Requirement: This course does not satisfy the UWR.

Student Conduct

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found guilty of an act of academic misconduct (including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or theft of an examination or supplies) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or being expelled from the University—or a combination of these. Please see Student Handbook at: <http://www.eou.edu/saffairs/handbook/honest.html>

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability or suspect that you have a learning problem and need accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Program in Loso Hall 234. Telephone: 541-962-3081

Syllabus prepared by: Sally Mielke, Shirley Roberts **Date:**6/2011

Revised by: S. Mielke, 1/2013; 9/2014; 5/4/2017