GROSSMONT COLLEGE

OURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 03/22/2022

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 04/19/2022

LIBRARY INFORMATION RESOURCES 110 – RESEARCH METHODS IN AN ONLINE WORLD

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

LIR 110 Research Methods in an Online World 1

Semester Hours 1 hour lecture: 16-18 hours 32-36 outside-of-class hours 48-54 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

A “C” grade or higher or “Pass” in English 120 or ESL 122 or equivalent.

3. Catalog Description

Designed for the student who would like to improve critical thinking and research skills. In this class we explore both old and new technologies, celebrate what the library has to offer, as well as gain a deeper understanding of the online information landscape. Students learn to navigate research tools ~~–~~ such as databases, and search engines for specific information needs. In addition, students will develop advanced search strategies and express their research questions in relevant search terms. They will learn to evaluate information to identify the most reliable and appropriate sources. Students will create citations in accordance with style manuals, and ethical issues about information will be discussed.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Write a research question with a scope appropriate to the information need.
2. Identify research tools appropriate for the information need.
3. Employ effective search strategies (e.g. developing keywords) to find information.
4. Explore the information landscape and compare traditional library methods to using search engines.
5. Analyze the issues surrounding using social media for information, such as: misinformation, unvetted and dis-information, fake news, algorithms and fake accounts.
6. State the reasons why a source is useful for the information need.
7. Articulate the qualities in context of an appropriate source (e.g. authority, purpose, relevance).
8. Demonstrate, in writing, a synthesis of his/her research process (e.g. annotated bibliography, short essays).
9. Acknowledge original ideas of others through attribution such as citation.

5. Instructional Facilities

Computer lab with one station per student, Internet access and appropriate software.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

1. Computer with Internet access
2. Word processing software
3. Multimedia viewing software such as Windows Media Player or Quicktime
4. Adobe Reader
5. Adobe Flash Player or equivalent

7. Course Content

1. Presentation of why information competency is essential for college success, as well as lifelong learning.
2. Approaches to developing an appropriate research question.
3. Exploration, comparison and use of free and fee based online search tools.
4. Methods used to develop search strategies in order to locate information effectively, such as search terms, phrase searches, field searches, etc.
5. Methods for critical evaluation of information sources, such as determining author’s or organization’s credibility, investigating the production or distribution of the given information, considering relevance, etc.
6. Introduction to issues regarding the ethical use of information (e.g. properly citing the ideas of others, academic integrity, copyright).
7. Creation of source citations in accordance with established style manuals**.**

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lecture with hands-on practice opportunities.
2. Videos and short media.
3. Group discussions
4. Interactive web-based tutorials.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Final assignment or exam.
2. Student reflections such as written work and group discussions.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Worksheets demonstrating skills or short essays, on topics such as how sources must demonstrate credibility or how democracy is served by having well-informed citizens.
2. Written or verbal reflections to class discussions or lectures.
3. Works Cited page or annotated bibliography.

11. Representative Texts

1. Representative Text(s):
2. Bernnard, Deborah, et al. *Information Literacy User’s Guide: An Open, Online Textbook*. Open SUNY Textbooks, 2014. <https://milneopentextbooks.org/the-information-literacy-users-guide-an-open-online-textbook/>
3. Caulfield, Mike. *Web Literacy for Student Fact-Checkers*. Pressbooks, 2017. <http://webliteracy.pressbooks.com>
4. Supplementary texts and workbooks:
5. *MLA Handbook*. Ninth edition., The Modern Language Association of America, 2021.
6. American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association : the Official Guide to APA Style*. Seventh edition. American Psychological Association, 2020.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Recognize an information need and revise a research question to a manageable scope for the task.
2. Employ various research methods based on information need to find sources.
3. Evaluate information resources for their appropriateness.