

Introduction to General Research Databases - SYLLABUS

Library Skills (LIBR 5)

Fall Semester 2009

.5 Transferable Unit - Credit/No Credit

CRN# 21972

This course is designed to develop your ability to use the key electronic magazine and newspaper resources of the Las Positas College Library and *will take two 3 ½ hours classes in the library's instructional lab plus a two-hour meeting with a librarian to complete the week of October 12.* The class is scheduled October 2 & October 9.

Your instructor of record is **Tina Inzerilla**. Sessions led by Tina Inzerilla and Charlotte Bagby. Any reference librarian will also be glad to help you. Call 925.424.1150 or email tinzerilla@laspositascollege.edu with any questions.

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Friday, in the Library

Library Hours: 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Friday
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Saturday The Library is not open on Sundays.

Textbook: Links to Introduction to General Databases are available online at the Research Skills Workshops webpage <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/library/IntroResearchSkills.php>

Dates To Know: Last day for NGR: 10/2/09 Last day for W: 10/9/09

Supplies: Discount GoPrint cards to print from library computers are available at the Bookstore
Student I.D. card

Course Description:

Introduction to research techniques in a college library: periodicals and general research databases. Learn the use of research databases to find full-text magazine and journal articles, search strategies, differences between scholarly journals and popular magazines, evaluation techniques, and MLA / APA citation formats for database articles. No make-up days will be allowed.

Course Requirements and Student Responsibilities:

1. Attendance is mandatory.
2. Students later than 10 minutes may find that their seat has been given away to a student wanting to add the class.
3. Students must be willing to do independent and group projects.
4. Students will complete and turn in hands-on exercises at the end of each class.
5. You will receive credit for your work after you have successfully completed the hands-on exercises, the final project, and met with a librarian for two hours.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

1. Research a given topic and select appropriate articles.
2. Search research databases to find articles in journals, newspapers or magazines.
3. Formulate effective research strategies for locating magazine, journal, and newspaper articles on a selected topic in LPC general databases.
4. Distinguish between popular magazines and peer-reviewed journals.
5. Document sources by creating a works-cited list based on APA and MLA guidelines in NoodleBib, a citation-generating tool. **Citing your sources helps you avoid plagiarism by giving credit to the sources you used.** Read the *LPC Academic Honesty Statement* for more detail <<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/facultystaff/honesty.php>>.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are statements describing knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes that a student will be able to demonstrate at the end (or as a result) of his or her completion of a particular assignment, course, or program.

1. Students will develop and refine search strategies to locate eight appropriate information sources using Academic Search Premier and America's Newspapers for an approved topic.
2. Students will create MLA and APA bibliographies from the appropriate information sources.

Classroom Behavior:

Cellular phones, pagers, iPods, CD/DVD players, and any other noise-producing device (with or without earphones) must be turned OFF during class.

1. You must arrive on time and stay until the class is over. Students who arrive late or leave early more than 1 time will have their final project score cut by 10 points.
2. Students may not eat or drink in class. A 20-minute break will be given.
3. Students are not to engage in disruptive chitchat with others or sleep in class.
4. At the beginning of the workshop, seating is on a first come, first served basis. However, the instructor reserves the right to make specific seat assignments as necessary.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

1. Students have the right to be treated in a courteous, professional, and appropriate manner by faculty, staff, and other students. Students are also expected to behave and interact with others in a courteous, professional, and appropriate manner inside and outside of the classroom. Intimidation, threats, and demeaning/derogatory language or behaviors are unacceptable.
2. The following issues are inappropriate at Las Positas College and will not be tolerated: plagiarism (including copying words or ideas from other students, or allowing his or her personal effort to be used by others); sexual harassment; harassment for any other illegal reason (i.e., race, religion, gender, age, ethnicity, etc.); discrimination; creating a hostile or demeaning atmosphere; threats of violence or intimidation and any other violations of the school's honor code, the educational process, and the school's general policies. Students with concerns in these areas, or others, may speak with their professor, or contact Student Services. For additional information, contact Dr. Amber Machamer, Director of Research and Planning, at 925.424.1027.

Grading:

Day 1 Exercises	40
Day 2 Exercises	40
Class Participation	20
Final Project/Exam	150

To receive a grade of CREDIT students must have 185 points.

NOTE: STUDENTS WHO DO NOT COMPLETE THE COURSE BY OCTOBER 23 WILL RECEIVE A NO-CREDIT GRADE.

Deadline Calendar

ATTENDANCE FOR BOTH CLASSES IS REQUIRED FOR CREDIT.

Week 1

Friday 10/2 Exercises 1-8

Week 2

Friday 10/9 Exercises 9-15

Finish by October 23 – Final Project: Creation of bibliography containing 8 sources on a topic approved in class.