

Introduction to Specialized Research Databases - SYLLABUS
Library Skills (LIBR 6)

Spring Semester 2010

.5 Non-Transferable Unit - Credit/No Credit

CRN# 31863

This course is designed to develop your ability to use the key electronic discipline-specific database resources of the Las Positas 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 March 2. The class is scheduled February 19 & February 26.

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 LPCLibrarian@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.-8:00 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 Specialized Research Databases are available online at the Research Skills Workshops webpage:
<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/library/IntroSpecialDatabases.php>

Dates To Know: Last day for NGR: 2/19/10 Last day for W: 2/26/10

Supplies: Discount GoPrint cards to print from library computers are available at the Bookstore
Student I.D. card
USB flash drive or computer disc

Course Description:

Introduction to research techniques in a college library using specialized research databases. Learn use of subject databases that emphasize full-text materials on discipline-specific topics such as literature, pro-con issues, and gender topics. Practice MLA /APA citation formats for articles from these databases.

Course Requirements and Student Responsibilities:

1. Attendance is mandatory. **No make-up days will be allowed.**
2. Students must be willing to do independent and group projects.
3. Students will complete and turn in hands-on exercises at the end of each class.
4. 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 electronic print resources (research databases) to find periodical articles in journals, newspapers or magazines as well as other research materials.
3. Formulate effective research strategies for locating magazine, journal, and newspaper articles as well as other research materials on a selected topic in LPC discipline-specific 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>>.

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 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 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 MARCH 11 WILL RECEIVE A NO-CREDIT GRADE.

Deadline Calendar

ATTENDANCE FOR BOTH CLASSES IS REQUIRED FOR CREDIT.

Week 1

Friday 2/19 Exercises 1-8

Week 2

Friday 2/26 Exercises 9-17

Finish by March 11 – Final Project: Creation of bibliography containing 8 sources on a topic approved in class.