Research Strategies
IM 204
Fall 2007 – Miller Center 207
9:30 – 10:45 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday

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Office Phone: 308-2093
E-mail is preferred method of contact.
D2L found at http://huskynet.stcloudstate.edu/d2l/

Contact Hours
Monday: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Reference Desk or in my office) & 4:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 11 am to 1 p.m. (Reference Desk or in my office)
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.
All times subject to change, please let me know if you’re coming to my office.
Other times by appointment.

Course Description and Objectives
IM 204. Research Strategies (MGM)
Examines basic university-level research while utilizing multicultural, gender, and
minority content and issues in library Learning Resources. (Undergraduate Bulletin)

This course is designed as an introduction to exploring social and cultural diversity
issues via the Library at St. Cloud State University. The exploration of these issues will
be done through learning; library research; technology and resources; research
strategies; digital information access; print and non-print materials; location and
evaluation of resources. This course is designed to teach how to access, assess and
apply information and assist students in becoming competent and critical consumers of
information. The context of learning these skills and tools shall be done with a focus on
social and cultural concerns as they relate to the contributions, experiences and
perspectives of women and people of diverse racial, cultural, economic and social
identity groups.
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to successfully:

- Identify and define information need(s) relating to multicultural, gender, and/or minority issues
- Utilize the research process in the analysis and development of information
- Evaluate information critically and thoughtfully
- Organize information
- Communicate the results of research
- Evaluate the communication and revise as necessary

Optional Texts


Required Readings
All required readings will be posted in D2L prior to their due date.

Attendance & Participation
Regular class attendance and participation will significantly increase your success and learning in this course. Attendance will be taken regularly. To receive full points for participation, you must actively engage in class discussions and assignments. You are responsible for all class information that you miss during an absence (lecture notes, discussions, assigned activities, etc.). You will not be permitted to make up in-class assignments. Let me know in advance if you must miss class or leave class early.

Teaching Methods
Methods will vary, but may include:
- Class workshops
- Hands-on instruction
- In-class activities
- Out-of-class work and assignments
- Readings
- Online exercises
- Small group discussions
Small group presentations with demonstrations
Lecture
Quizzes

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**
Honesty is expected and plagiarism will NOT be tolerated in this course.

"Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of student status, and resume falsification. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement; unacknowledged use of materials by another person or agency engaged in selling or otherwise providing term papers or other academic materials." (St. Cloud State University, Code of Conduct).

**Special Accommodations**
It is St. Cloud State University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify me within the first week of the semester.

**Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take Home – 10 Assignments, 20 points each</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Viewpoints Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Reflection Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Activities and Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project – Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project – Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total points</td>
<td>1000</td>
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All assignments must be turned in at the beginning of the class period. If an assignment is turned in after that point, it will be counted as late. Late assignments will be marked down 10% for each day late.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800-899</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>700-799</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600-699</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>599 and below</td>
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Borderline grades will be decided by class participation, including regular attendance.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

This schedule is flexible and will be adjusted to meet class needs.

September 6
   Introduction to course, pretest

**September 11 is the last day to drop with no "W" and 100% refund.**

September 11
   Library tour, organization of libraries, library terminology, call numbers, Flickr

September 13
   Google image labeler, Flickr activity, LR&TS website overview, event reflection paper

September 18
   Internet sources & evaluation, annotated bibliography

September 20
   Information literacy, research process, search strategy (research question, thesis statement, keyword development, etc.), information cycle, alternative viewpoints paper
   **Assignment #1 due**

September 25
   Background information, RefWorks
   RSS/Blogs
September 27
  Finding & evaluating articles
  Social tagging: del.icio.us
  **Assignment #2 due**

October 2
  Finding & evaluating articles
  Google Scholar

October 4
  Research articles (analysis and evaluation), bias
  Wikis
  **Assignment #3 due**

October 9
  Finding & evaluating articles
  Podcasting

October 11
  Alternative press sources and evaluation
  MySpace, Facebook
  **Assignment #4 due**

October 16
  Finding and evaluating book sources

October 18
  Finding and evaluating book sources
  **Assignment #5 due**

October 22 is the last day to drop with "W."

October 23
  Ethics and politics of information, copyright
  Mid course evaluation, hand out midterm
  **Assignment #6 due**

October 25
  **No Class, Lab Day**

October 30
  Flex day
  **Midterm Due**

November 1
  Primary vs. secondary sources
November 6
Non-print (multimedia) sources and evaluation, media literacy
Assignment #7 due

November 8
Flex day
Event Reflection Paper Due

November 13
Statistics
Assignment #8 due

November 15
Flex day

November 20
Signup for bibliography presentations, government documents
Assignment #9 due

November 22
Happy Thanksgiving. No class.

November 27
Presentation tips
Alternative Viewpoints Paper Due

November 29
Prepare for presentations
Assignment #10 due

December 4
Annotated bibliography due
Annotated bibliography presentations

December 6
Annotated bibliography presentations

December 11
Last day of class
Annotated bibliography presentations, final course evaluation

Tuesday, December 18, 7:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.: Final Exam