Research Strategies

IM 204
Fall 2008 – Miller Center 207
9:30 – 10:45 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday

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YM: indexer33
Office: Miller Center 130A (Located behind Circulation, 1st West)
Office Phone: 308-2093
E-mail is preferred method of contact. Include IM 204 as part of the subject line.
D2L found at http://huskynet.stcloudstate.edu/d2l/
I will be available via e-mail, IM, phone, or during office hours if you have questions concerning the course. Please do not hesitate to ask for clarification with any assignment.

Contact Hours
Monday: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday: 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday: 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday: 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 Text

**Attendance & Participation**
Attendance will be taken regularly. Regular class attendance and participation are essential. You are responsible for all class information that you miss during an absence (including lecture notes, descriptions of assignments, discussions, assigned activities, and course work). 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. Success in this course is directly correlated with class attendance and participation. Computers in the classroom are meant to be used for course work only. Cell phone use is not permitted during class. I expect you to be respectful of me, your fellow students, and any guest speakers.

**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." (SCSU, 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**
Each assignment must be 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. In-class assignments must be turned in by the end of class, unless otherwise specified. If you miss class, you may turn in an assignment in advance of the class period that it is due. If you send an assignment to me as an e-mail attachment, I will reply
to your e-mail; if you do not receive an e-mail from me, assume I did not receive the assignment. It is your responsibility to try again. You may also turn in assignments in my office or mailbox. However, it is your responsibility to follow up and make sure I receive the assignment in advance of the class period it is due.

### Graded Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take Home – 5 Assignments, 20 points each</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web 2.0 Assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event Reflection Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Assignments &amp; Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project – Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total points</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>500</td>
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### Grade

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>450-500</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>400-449</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>350-399</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>300-349</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>299 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.

**Week 1**
- August 26 (T): Review syllabus, introductions, information literacy pretest
- August 28 (Th): Web 2.0 awareness survey, technology boot camp, library tour

**Week 2**
- September 2 (T): Introduce Event Reflection assignment, Flickr assignment, information literacy, MGM
- September 4 (Th): Introduce Web 2.0 assignment, research process, identifying topics

**Week 3**
- September 9 (T): Working with topics, concept map, research questions
- September 11 (Th): Research questions

**Week 4**
- September 16 (T): Information cycle, scholarly publishing cycle, organization of libraries &
library terminology, call numbers

September 18 (Th): Introduce Assignment #1, background information

Week 5

Web 2.0 Assignment #1 due September 22

September 23 (T): Keywords, search statements, Boolean operators
September 25 (Th): Assignment #1 due
Guest speaker: Tom Steeman, University Archivist

Week 6

Web 2.0 Assignment #2 due September 29

September 30 (T): Types of publications, finding & evaluating articles
October 2 (Th): Introduce Assignment #2, finding articles, controlled vocabulary

Week 7

Web 2.0 Assignment #3 due October 6

October 7 (T): Research articles, bias, paraphrasing & annotating
October 9 (Th): Assignment #2 due
Introduce Midterm assignment, Google Scholar

Week 8

Web 2.0 Assignment #4 due October 13

October 14 (T): Alternative press articles
October 15 is the last day to drop with "W."
October 16 (Th): Lab day: work on Midterm; mid course evaluation

Week 9

Web 2.0 Assignment #5 due October 20

October 21 (T): Midterm due
Finding articles, introduce Assignment #3
October 23 (Th): No class. Fall Break

Week 10

Web 2.0 Assignment #6 due October 27

October 28 (T): Finding books
October 30 (Th): Assignment #3 due
Finding books

Week 11

Web 2.0 Assignment #7 due November 3

November 4 (T): Internet searching
November 6 (Th): Internet searching, introduce Assignment #4
Week 12  
Web 2.0 Assignment #8 due November 10
November 11 (T): Veterans Day. No class.
November 13 (Th): Introduce the final project (Annotated Bibliography), statistics

Week 13  
Web 2.0 Assignment #9 due November 17
November 18 (T): Assignment #4 due
Government documents
November 20 (Th): No class. Lab day.

Week 14  
Web 2.0 Assignment #10 due November 24
November 25 (T): Event Reflection Due
Media literacy, introduce Assignment #5
November 27 (Th): No class. Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15
December 2 (T): Assignment #5 due
Ethics and politics of information & copyright
December 4 (Th): Thesis statements

Week 16
December 9 (T): Lab day: work on final project
December 11 (Th): Last day of class; Final Project Due; Final Course Evaluation

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 16, 7:30 a.m-10:00 a.m.