Access to Information
IM 452/552
Summer Session I 2009 – Miller Center B18/Online
12:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m., Monday - Thursday

Robin Ewing, Assistant Professor & Librarian
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Office: Miller Center 130A (Located behind Circulation desk, 1st West)
Office Phone: 320-308-2093
E-mail is preferred method of contact. Use your HuskyNet e-mail address and include IM 452 or IM 552 in the subject line. I will respond to e-mails daily except on Saturdays.

Contact hours
I will be in my office during class time on the days we don’t meet synchronously. I will have a chat session open in D2L during these times. I will also be in my office until 5 pm on class days. All times are subject to change so please let me know if you’re coming to my office or better yet, schedule an appointment.

Course Description
IM 452/552. Access to Information
Information access, theory, practice, tools (print and electronic formats) and trends in research and provision of information services.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to successfully:

A. Understand the varieties and vagaries of information sources and services.
B. Evaluate the delivery, content, and credibility of information sources and services.
C. Analyze and interpret the varieties of information queries and their relationship to information sources.
D. Assess trends in access, retrieval, and delivery of information sources and services.
E. Understand the public policy issues related to accessing information sources and providing information services.
F. Understand information seeking behaviors of users and their relationship to acquiring information sources and delivering information services.

Optional Text
**Course participation**

Participation is expected and accounts for substantial percentage of your final course grade. The instructor acts a facilitator of the learning process. To have the best learning experience, you must participate and take charge of the process. Students are encouraged to share experiences and knowledge from other courses as well as greater world experiences.

**Attendance**

Because most of this class will occur asynchronously online, attendance will only be taken during the synchronous chat and mandatory on-campus sessions.

**Writing Standards**

As an upper division and graduate course, students are expected to submit well-written work using standard English grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Poorly written work will result in a reduced grade. Citations should be formatted using APA Documentation.

**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 the instructor within the first week of the semester.

**Assignments**

Undergraduate students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Assignments</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (discussion and chats)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Evaluations</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Graduate students

**Graded Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (discussion and chats)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Evaluations</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informed Opinion Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Grades**

Grades will be assigned using letter grades A-F.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D/F</td>
<td>Below expectations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Class Schedule**

**Week 1**

10 June (W): **Mandatory on-campus**
Introduction to the course, technology boot camp, professional resources

Last day to add courses or drop with no W for full 1st session courses
Deadline for 100 percent refund

11 June (Th): History of reference, overview of reference services, information professionals

**Week 2**

15 June (M): **Discussion on professional resources due**
Reference interview, overview of reference sources, evaluating reference/information sources, encyclopedias

16 June (T): **Synchronous chat session**
Information cycle, information literacy and instruction, dictionaries

17 June (W): **Discussion on reference overview, history of reference and information professionals due**
Virtual reference, directories, almanacs, yearbooks, handbooks

18 June (Th): Article Databases (Indexes & abstracts), controlled vocabularies
Week 3
22 June (M): No Class
23 June (T): No Class
24 June (W): Encyclopedia evaluation due, discussion on reference sources, reference interview due
Electronic resources, digital divide
Deadline for dropping with W for full session courses

25 June (Th): Dictionaries evaluation due, discussion on information literacy, info cycle due
Mid course evaluations & grade check, library catalogs & bibliographies, information ethics & copyright

Week 4
29 June (M): Almanacs & Handbooks evaluation due, virtual reference discussion due
Web 2.0, Internet search engines/subject directories

30 June (T): Synchronous chat session
Databases evaluation due, controlled vocabulary discussion due
Government information, collection development

1 July (W): E-resources evaluation due, digital divide discussion due
Geographic sources, evaluation of reference services

2 July (Th): Catalogs evaluation due, copyright & information ethics discussion due
Biographical sources & quotations, marketing reference services

Week 5
6 July (M): Web 2.0 discussion due, Internet search evaluation due
Future of reference & libraries

7 July (T): Government information evaluation due, collection development discussion due
Informed opinion essay due

8 July (W): Geographic sources evaluation due

9 July (Th): Last day of class, mandatory on-campus
Marketing reference services discussion due, Evaluation of reference services discussion due, Future of reference discussion due
Final course evaluation