Syracuse University

From the SelectedWorks of Michael Pasqualoni

October 2006

IST 200: eResearch - How to Survive and Thrive in College (Syllabus)

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IST 200
E-Research: How to Survive and Thrive in College
School of Information Studies & Syracuse University Library

SYLLABUS – FALL 2006

Class Sessions: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30pm–4:25pm
Location: E.S. Bird Library,
Spector Room (608) & Electronic Training Center (046).
See our WebCT site for course schedule updates

Instructor: Michael Pasqualoni, Instructional Services Librarian
Phone: 443-3715 (Office)
E-mail: *mjpasqua@syr.edu*
Office: E. S. Bird Library, room 210
Office Hours: Thursdays 2-3pm
(Other times-by appointment only)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, you will explore the information systems available to you within the SU community and attempt to organize information in meaningful ways. You will investigate how these systems fit within the wider legal, social and political world in which we all live. You will also learn a little more about how professionals seek answers to questions in order to succeed in their fields. You will develop collections of information to use throughout and beyond college. You will evaluate this information and learn to use it according to a set of standard rules and guidelines.

This course is about learning to make sense of the world of information around you. How do you go about finding answers to questions in your academic and personal life? When doing that, are you doing "research," even if you do not refer to it with that name? What tools are available to help you succeed in that process? Is Google good enough and when? Where else might you turn for locating valuable information? What sorts of tools and sources are professionals and the faculty using? What do you do with all that information once you've found it? Is it possible to enjoy doing this or is it just a chore?

The specific research skills gained in this course through readings, discussions, laboratory exercises, written assignments and related projects will help move you closer toward having a competitive advantage in the research you do in college and life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Identify systems of information within and outside of the SU community.
2. Find information using a variety of sources and retrieval tools (e.g., print, electronic, human sources).
3. Create and refine research questions to best frame the research process.
4. Evaluate information and sources using a defined set of criteria.
5. Organize and synthesize information for presentation.
6. Understand ethical, social and legal issues involving the use of the information.
7. Apply research strategies to personal and academic interests.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required texts, available at SU Bookstore, Schine Student Center – http://bookstore.syr.edu

- Egendorf, Laura K. (2004). *The information revolution: Opposing viewpoints.* San Diego: Greenhaven Press.
- Quaratiello, Arlene Rodda. (2003). *The college student's research companion.* 3rd edition. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers.

Additional readings may be placed on Library reserve or on WebCT.

GRADES

Major Assignments	**Percentage of Grade**	**Due Dates**
1. Local Information Quest	5%	9/7
2. Digital Pictures – Organizing Project	10%	Part 1: 9/21; Part 2: 10/3
3. Digital Pictures – Research Report	15%	10/10
4. Mid Term Examination	20%	10/19
5. Evaluation of Sources Assignment	15%	11/2
6. **Final Project**: Webfolio	25%	Drafts due: 11/16-11/28 Presentations: 11/30, 12/7 Final Webfolios due: 12/14
Class/Search Lab Participation & Attendance	10%	Ongoing

Letter Grade Conversions:

A: 93+	B+: 86-89	C+: 76-79	D: 59-69
A-: 90-92	B: 83-85	C: 73-75	F: below 59
	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION RULES

Here are some rules I ask that you abide by. They pertain primarily to devoting your full attention to class sessions. An important skill in any research process whatsoever involves directing attention to the timely execution of that research effort and focusing your energy on the research related objectives in front of you.

Attendance in all class sessions is expected. If you plan to be absent on a given day, notify me in advance. If you are absent, consider making arrangements with someone in the class to obtain notes and materials. More than two unexcused absences will result in significant lowering of your final grade (i.e., 5% penalty for each and every unexcused absence in excess of two).

Timely arrival for class and lab sessions is expected. A consistent late arrival will subject you to, at worst, possible loss of all class participation points for the semester and, at best, a very low class participation grade.

Active participation is expected for in class and out-of-class activities, such as any and all required WebCT discussions, search lab exercises, etc.

Cell phones must be turned off during class. See also my "five minute personal computing rule" below.

Personal computer use during class time should remain focused on the course related tasks, exercises and discussion for that session. See also my "five minute personal computing rule" below. This rule applies to our sessions in the E.S. Bird Electronic Training Center and to our Spector Room sessions.

> ***Air Orange at E.S. Bird:*** All floors in E.S. Bird are part of SU's "Air Orange" wireless computing network. For more info about connecting your laptop or other computing device to Air Orange, visit http://its.syr.edu/connecting/wireless/
> ***Laptop Loans*****:** E.S. Bird Library, 1st Floor Circulation desk, loans out laptop computers preconfigured to access Air Orange .

Pasqualoni's five minute personal computing rule: Because electronic connections with colleagues, classmates, faculty, friends, co-workers, bosses, advisors, family and others can be an important part of the research and information gathering process in a globally networked culture, I allow a strictly timed five minute grace period at the start of each class session where there will be no penalties of any sort for last minute checks of email, instant messages, the web, voicemail, etc. Do not abuse this privilege by violating the deadline or the grace period may be revoked. And do not present other SU faculty with an expectation they should also implement this rule. It may not fit within their lesson plans. I will suspend this rule from time to time, when our sessions demand an additional five minutes (e.g., for in-class presentations or guest speakers, etc).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The academic community of Syracuse University and of the School of Information Studies requires the highest standards of professional ethics and personal integrity from all members of the community. Violations of these standards are violations of a mutual obligation characterized by trust, honesty, and personal honor. As a community, we commit ourselves to standards of academic conduct, impose sanctions against those who violate these standards, and keep appropriate records of violations.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to plagiarism, cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, multiple submission of work, misuse of resources for teaching and learning, falsifying information, forgery, bribery, and any other acts that deceive others about one's academic work or record.

For the School of Information Studies' complete "Statement of Academic Integrity," see http://istweb.syr.edu/courses/advising/integrity.asp
For an SU Library guide that contains tips for "Avoiding Plagiarism," see http://library.syr.edu/instruction/tutorials/plagiarism/plagiarism.html

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a documented visual or physical impairment, learning disability, or any other disability covered by the University policy for students with disabilities, contact the instructor during the first week of class to discuss and arrange any instructional accommodations. For more information or assistance, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) located in Suite 309, 804 University Avenue or call 315-443-4498 for an appointment.

CLASS FORMAT AND COMMUNICATION

Class sessions will incorporate a combination of instructor presentations, group discussions, research laboratory exercises and other activities. Guest speakers may visit the class several times throughout the semester to share their experiences in finding and using information within their fields. All such presentations are integral components of the course. Students are expected to incorporate the information learned from the guests into their other course participation this semester. This includes participation in the form of in class discussion, comments posted at our WebCT site, responses to questions appearing on our midterm exam (i.e., information shared with us by guests is fair game for that exam) and submission of required major course assignments.

We will from time to time use WebCT to communicate and share materials. You can log on to the course web space at **http://istwebct6.syr.edu**. You will need your NetID to login. Please monitor WebCT regularly.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS – ***Any and all revisions to our schedule will be posted to the course WebCT site.***

Week 1	**Tuesday, August 29- Spector Room**	**Assignment/Reading Due**
	Course Introduction • What is research? • Information you need to survive and thrive. • Wider social contexts for the research process. • WebCT introduction.	*In class:* Concept Maps
	Thursday, August 31- Spector Room	
	Information in Our Community I • Introduce Local Information Quest. • The Library: Periodical Types • Plagiarism and Citing Sources	• Post introductions to WebCT, including 2-3 paragraph report addressing two recent information gathering projects – *Due no later than 10am, August 31.* • Review *You Quote It You Note It* - http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/ {Vaughn Memorial Library, Acadia University} and reply to WebCT posting by instructor. When completing the tutorial, select one of 4 "players": *Dylan, Tyler, Emma or Maiko.* (see 8/29 handout for further details) - *Due no later than 10am, August 31.*
Week 2	**Tuesday, September 5- ETC *(Bird, room 046)***	
	Good Research Habits – Broader Contexts • *10 Things Employers Want You to Learn* • *100 Great Ideas and Practical Habits* • Framing your research questions • Primary vs. secondary sources • What is not available online	*In class:* Search Lab Exercise

	Thursday, September 7-Spector	**Assignment/Reading Due**
	Information In Our Community II • What published sources do you need to know about? • How should you evaluate those sources? • *Guest Speaker, SU Library Map Collections*	• Quaratiello, Chapters 1,8,9 • **Major Assignment 1: Local Information Quest**
Week 3	**Tuesday, September 12-ETC**	
	Online and Offline Communities • The tangled Web we weave: What type of source is the Internet? • Discuss *Local Information Quest*	• Egendorf, Chapter 1
	Thursday, September 14-Spector	
	Retrieving and Organizing Information • Online Catalog & Database Searching Tips • Pasqualoni's *SSN & APIQ models* • Introduce Digital Pictures Project	
Week 4	**Tuesday, September 19-ETC**	
	Cyberspaces and Places: Tools and collections for retrieving what you need to know. • Physical and virtual repositories (libraries, reference books, private & public organizations, et al) • *Guest Speaker: SU Office of Admissions*	• Quaratiello, Chapters 2, 3, 4 *In class:* Search Lab Exercise, SUMMIT Catalog

	Thursday, September 21-Spector	Assignment/Reading Due
	The Academic Web • Internet 2 • Web of Science • Public Library of Science • SPARC • Community Networking Systems (My Space, Facebook, et al) • Academic Courseware (Blackboard, WebCT)	• Egendorf, Chapter 2 • Framing for final project topics • **Major Assignment 2 (Part 1): Digital Pictures**
Week 5	**Tuesday, September 26-ETC**	
	The Academic Web (continued) **Presenting Results** • Academic Writing Formats • HTML 101 • Powerpoint/Excel • Streaming Media (Podcasting, Screencasting, et al)	*In class:* Search Lab Exercise, General & Interdisciplinary Databases
	Thursday, September 28-Spector	
	Privacy and Copyright • Who owns the information you find? • What and who can you see as you search for information? • What and who can see you as you search for information? • Censorship **Citing Sources Redux** • Citation styles • Where to get help with citation formats • Why cite? • Plagiarism – detection & consequences	• Egendorf, Chapter 3

Week 6	Tuesday, October 3-ETC	Assignment/Reading Due
	Supercharge Your Results • Advanced retrieval techniques • Immersion in a discipline • Human sources • Introduce Digpics Research Reflection Report **Discuss DigPics submissions**	• Quaratiello, Chapters 5,6,7 *In class:* Search Lab Exercise, Advanced Database Searching • **Major Assignment 2 (Part 2): Digital Pictures-Organizing Project**
	Thursday, October 5-Spector	
	The Future of Research & Information • Where is the information society headed? • How will information be organized in 2040? • What will you need to know that you don't know now?	• Egendorf, Chapter 4
Week 7	**Tuesday, October 10-ETC**	
	Supercharge Your Results II/Evaluating Results • Quality v. Quantity • Research as Iterative Process • Introduce *Evaluation of Sources* Assignment	*In class:* Search Lab Exercise, Refining Initial Search Results • **Major Assignment 3: Digital Pictures-Research Reflection Report**
	Thursday, October 12-Spector	
	Pre-Midterm Review Session	
Week 8	**Tuesday, October 17-ETC**	
	How Your Peers Find and Present Information • *Guest Speakers, SU Student Editors/Writers*	

	Thursday, October 19-Spector	**Assignment/Reading Due**
	Mid-Term Examination	• **Major Assignment 4: Mid-Term Exam**-*Bring a bluebook for essay portions of exam.*
Week 9	**Tuesday, October 24**	
	NO CLASS TODAY – Eid Ul-Fitr Holiday	
	Thursday, October 26-Spector	
	What Employers Want You to Learn • *Guest Speaker, Professor Bill Coplin (Chair, SU Public Affairs Program)*	
Week 10	**Tuesday, October 31-ETC**	
	Tools For Presenting Your Results • *Guest Speaker, Rafael Dobrowolski (Multimedia Coordinator, SU Library)*	
	Thursday, November 2-Spector	
	• Introduce final project	• **Major Assignment 5-Evaluation of Sources**
Week 11	**Tuesday, November 7-ETC**	
	• Discuss evaluation assignment	*In class:* Search Lab Exercise, Locating quantitative data

	Thursday, November 9-Spector	Assignment/Reading Due
	Evaluating Research Results (Continued) • The Information cycle • Constructing and critiquing specific arguments	
Week 12	**Tuesday, November 14-ETC**	
	• *Tentative, Guest Speaker, TBA*	*In class:* Search Lab Exercise, Full text linking *In class:* Information Literacy Tutorials
	Thursday, November 16-Spector	
	Online at the Library I • Online databases, E-journals, etc. • Library resources vs. the Web • Finding Full text content (SU Links) • Discuss *Radical Syllabus Day* Options	Initial Draft, Final "Webfolio" Project
Week 13	**Tuesday, November 21-ETC**	
	Online at the Library II • Catalog vs. databases • Reference, interlibrary loan, reserves, account information, remote access • Discuss final project drafts	• Library Virtual Tour (http://library.syr.edu/instruction/tour/main/index.html) • *In class:* Information Literacy Tutorials
	Thursday, November 23	
	NO CLASS TODAY – Thanksgiving Holiday	

Week 14	Tuesday, November 28-ETC	Assignment/Reading Due
	***Radical syllabus day*.**	
	Thursday, November 30-Spector	
	Final Presentations	Final presentations
Week 15	**Tuesday, December 5-ETC**	
	Final Presentations	Final presentations
	Thursday, December 7-Spector	
	Wrap-up	**REMINDER: Final Webfolio is due no later than 5pm Thursday, December 14**