

9-2012

ENST 201.01: Environmental Information Resources

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ENST 201 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

Fall 2012, Forestry 301, T/TH 9:40-11:00am

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Barry Brown

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Office Hours: Fri 3:10-4 pm, Mansfield Library 327, x6811

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The primary purpose of EVST 201 is to give the student skills for finding, evaluating, and using existing information to increase understanding of environmental issues and resolve controversies. During the semester, each student will **research** a subject of her or his choosing, using a variety of sources (including, but not limited to refereed literature, government sources, internet sources, and interviews); **evaluate** sources critically; **synthesize information**; **write a literature review** on the topic, and give a **formal presentation**. A central focus of the course is on using **critical thinking** to analyze a topic and deal effectively with the information explosion.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writer of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2007.

Additional readings selected by Instructors.

ATTENDANCE

"Students are expected to attend all class meetings and complete all assignments for courses in which they are enrolled. Instructors may excuse brief and occasional absences for reasons of illness, injury, family emergency, religious observance or participation in a University sponsored activity.... Instructors shall excuse absences for reasons of military service or mandatory public service." <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy>.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

"Being a student at UM presupposes a commitment to the principles and policies embodied in the Code." http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

DISABILITY STUDENT SERVICES

Appropriate accommodations will be made by the University pursuant to the policies of the Disability Student Services, <http://life.umt.edu/dss>.

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW

The last day to withdraw from this course on Cyberbear without having to petition for a late withdrawal is September 17, 2012.

ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASSES

Class

Day/Session

Assigned Readings

8/28 TU LaPier: Introduction to course

8/30

TH LaPier:
What is
Research/How
Researchers Think

KT 1-2

9/4

TU LaPier:
Planning Your
Argument

KT 5

Due: Proposal 1

Library Tour at 10:40 am

9/6

TH LaPier:
Literature Reviews:
Purpose and
Structure

Article #1

Note: All Brown classes will be held in Mansfield Library 283

9/11 TU Brown: Comprehensive Search Statements and Electronic Indexes

Due: Outline of Article #1

9/13 TH Brown: Comprehensive Search Statements and Electronic Indexes, cont.

9/18 TU Brown: Citation Indexes & Bibliographic Management Programs
Due: Email to Brown: LSA I

9/20 TH LaPier:
Research on your
own

Article #2

Due: Proposal 2

9/25 TU LaPier:
Considering the
Evidence

KT 3-4

Due: Critical Review of Article #2

9/27 TH Brown: Citation Indexes & Bibliographic Management Programs

10/2 TU LaPier:
Drafting Your
Review

KT

6/7/10/11

Due: Email to Brown: LSA II

10/4 TH LaPier:
Evidence

KT

8/9/25/26

10/9 TU Brown: Library Catalogs & Newspaper Indexes
Due: Final Proposal

10/11 TH Brown: Library Catalogs & Newspaper Indexes

10/16

TU LaPier:
Annotated
Bibliography and
Citations
KT
15/16/17

Due: Email to Brown: LSA III

10/18

TH LaPier:
Crafting the
Outline and
Presentations

KT 13/14

10/23 TU Brown: Web Information and Search Engines

10/25 TH Brown: Web Information and Search Engines, cont.

Due: Outline

10/30 TU LaPier: Students Present Outlines

Due: Email to Brown: LSA IV

11/1 TH LaPier: Students Present Outlines

11/6 TU **Election Day – No Class (Vote!)**

11/8

TH LaPier:
Giving Effective
Presentations

Due: Annotated Bibliography

11/13	TU	Student Presentations
11/15	TH	Student Presentations <u>Due: Abstract</u>
11/20	TU	Student Presentations
11/22	TH	No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday
11/27	TU	Student Presentations
11/29	TH	Student Presentations <u>Due: Final Papers for Peer Review</u>
12/4	TU	Student Presentations <u>Due: Peer Reviews (2 copies)</u>
12/6	TH	Student Presentations <u>Due: Revised Final Papers (1 paper copy & 1 emailed copy)</u>

GRADING

The work you submit for grading must be your own original work, written by you specifically for this course. Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in **automatic failure of the course**, and may result in **further academic punishment**. "Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University." Please see Section IV of the Student Conduct Code.

ASSIGNMENTS

Brown's assignments (LSA I to IV) are to be emailed to him by **9:00 am** on the due date.

LaPier's assignments are due in class as **hard copies** at the beginning of class on the due date.

The weight of each assignment is reflected in the amount of points assigned to each:

40 points each for Brown's LSA assignments (40 @ 4)	160
Proposal, first re-draft, final draft (30)	30
Outline of Article #1 (10)	10
Critical Review of Article #2 (30)	30
Outline of Paper (20)	20
Annotated Bibliography (20)	20
Abstract (20)	20
Peer Review (30)	30
Oral Presentation (80)	80
Final Literature Review Paper (100)	100
Grade = % of points earned	500

Note Regarding Assignments:

- Papers are due in class **on or before** the date listed in the syllabus.
- One grade level (A becomes A-) for each class day an assignment is late.
- Assignments with an undue number of errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar will be marked down and may be returned ungraded for correction.
- Written work will be evaluated in terms of your depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, clarity of writing, and ability to address issues raised in the text and in class on the topic at hand.
- Grades given reflect the following criteria of judgment:
 - F: Failure to meet minimum requirements
 - D: Unsatisfactory, but some effort to meet minimum requirements
 - C: Satisfactory; meets minimum requirements of assignment but not much more
 - B: Good to Very Good: thoughtful reflection, good analysis, clear writing style
 - A: Excellent depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and writing style: demonstrate creativity and mature analytical skills in going beyond the primary requirements of the assignment.