

**The “Search” in Research
Fall 2007**

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Office Hours: M-F, 8:30-9

M, T 3rd period (10:50-11:40)

By appointment

Course Description

In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of information resources and learn multiple search and evaluation techniques and learn how these techniques and tools fit within the larger context of academic research. Presentations will cover the use of print, electronic, archival, statistical, and government sources. Topics will include the ethical use of materials, the similarities and differences between print and electronic sources, the implications of the rise of electronic documents, how to exploit text features to locate relevant information and additional sources, and other basic information literacy issues. This course fulfills a Doing Arts requirement (.25 credits).

Assignments and Grading

4 mini-tests (10 points each)	40 points
Research notebook (5 points each evaluation)	20 points
Homework	10 points 2 point e.c.
Presentation	15 points
Final Project	15 points
Total	100 points

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	88-89
B	83-87
B-	80-82
C+	78-79
C	73-77
C-	70-72
D+	68-69
D	63-67
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Students are responsible for four in-class mini-tests, maintaining a research notebook, brief weekly homework assignments, one presentation, and a final project. The research notebook

will include in-class notes, process writes, and responses to in-class activities, and will be given points based on the comprehensiveness of entries (5 points excellent, 4 points relatively thorough with entries for each day, 3 points for completing most days but with sparse entries, 2 points for missing multiple entries, 1 point for missing the majority of entries, 0 points for failing to turn in a notebook). The homework will consist of 2-3 sentences on the assigned “Learn Something and Cite It.” There are 12 LSCI assignments. Ten are required for the regular grade, and 2 may be completed for extra credit (1 point each). Students will give one in-class presentation, including one in-class activity. Prior to the presentation, students will meet twice with the instructor, once to discuss the topic and once to rehearse the presentation and discuss the activity. The final project will be a one-page independent study proposal, including search strategies and an initial literature review.

Course Outline

Date	Topic	Assignment
Tuesday, September 11	Introductions Syllabus, expectations, grading	Get notebook with pocket folder
Wednesday, September 12	Organizing your own information (a.k.a. taking notes)	Get a NYPL library card Learn Something and Cite It: Learn anything. <i>Record what you learned and how you learned it. (2-3 sentences)</i>
Tuesday, September 18	Research vs. research vs. search Research, Part I	Return field trip forms
Wednesday, September 19	Research, Part II	Find a journal article. Justify why it is/is not a Research article. LSCI: From the article
Tuesday, September 25	Mini-test #1 Little-r Research Methods Search & Evaluation	Email presentation choices Notebook evaluation #1
Wednesday, September 26	Organizing (Textual) Knowledge: A brief history of anarchy, innovation, and access	Bring a non-fiction book to class on October 2 nd . LSCI: From the non-fiction book

Tuesday, October 2	O(T)K: The Library -Dewey -LOC Research method: Browsing Breaking down the Book	
Wednesday, October 3	Cataloging: Controlling the Chaos Access tool: Catalog Entry point: MARC records Subjects vs. keywords	LS: The controlled vocabulary (subject term for any keyword. Include what domain the subject term is from (LOC, Sears, domain thesaurus, etc.)
Tuesday, October 9	Mini-test #2 Archives: the basics	Return field trip form Notebook evaluation #2
Wednesday, October 10	Archives field trip	LSCI: from the archives field trip
Tuesday, October 16	No class First 4 presenters meet to practice	
Wednesday, October 17	No Class, PSAT administered at BHSEC	
Tuesday, October 23	Student presentations: Citing your source Footnotes/Endnotes Citation styles	
Wednesday, October 24	SP: Encyclopedias Wikipedia	LSCI: from an encyclopedia (besides Wikipedia). Cite your source and name the citation style.
Tuesday, October 30	SP: Dictionaries Thesauri	

Wednesday, October 31	SP: Bibliographies	LSCI: from a dictionary, thesauri, or bibliography
Tuesday, November 6	No Class, Election Day	
Wednesday, November 7	SP: Periodicals Newspapers	LSCI: from a newspaper or periodical
Tuesday, November 13	SP: Databases Indexes and Abstracts Full-text	
Wednesday, November 16	Mini-test #3 SP: Databases (continued)	LSCI: anything Notebook evaluation #3
Tuesday, November 20	SP: Browsers and webpages	
Wednesday, November 21	SP: The future of information on the Internet?	LSCI: anything from the Internet. Cite your source and justify your faith in its validity.
Tuesday, November 27	Research proposals	Select Final Project: Independent Study Proposal topic
Wednesday, November 29	Digital archives: LOC's American Memory	LSCI: from American Memory.
Tuesday, December 4	SP: Images	
Wednesday, December 5	SP: Films and sound recordings	LSCI: from an image, film, or sound recording
Tuesday, December 11	SP: Statistics	
Wednesday, December 12	SP: Government information	LSCI: from a statistical or government report
Tuesday, December 18	SP: Medical information &	

	scientific research	
Wednesday, December 19	Mini-test #4 SP: Maps and atlases	Notebook evaluation #4
Wednesday, January 2	Writing the research paper	
Tuesday, January 8	Individual meetings re: final project	
Wednesday, January 9th	Individual meetings re: final project	
January 15- 18	Final Project due	