

# INFO4203 / SLIS5205

Information Indexing, Abstracting and Retrieval

## Syllabus Spring 2015

### Instructor

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### Course Description

This course will introduce the student to the basic concepts of indexing and abstracting. While theoretical issues will be discussed, the emphasis will be on how-to-do-it. The overall goal is essentially to give to the student the basic fundamentals of indexing and abstracting which will be applicable to any career options in the fields of library and information science. With practical indexing and abstracting experience, student will become more proficient in retrieving information.

**Expected Outcomes**

- To learn the basic skills of indexing, vocabulary control and abstracting as they are used in a wide range of applications.
- To be familiar with the vocabulary and professional environments of indexing and related activities.
- To understand the fundamentals of indexing and abstracting various types of materials.
- To be able to use thesauri and understand methods of thesaurus design and construction.
- To be able to use different types of indexes and to have search skills enhanced by understanding indexes and indexing practices.
- To understand how to use software tools in indexing and abstracting of items in different formats

**Major Course Components**

- Textbook Reading Assignments
- Web-based Supplementary Reading Assignments
- Weekly "Mini-lectures"
- Weekly Indexing and Abstracting Exercises
- Bulletin Board Discussions of Readings and Assignments
- Chat Discussions
- Midterm Exam
- Final Exam

**Grades**

- Reading Discussion and Class Participations..... 110 Points (35%)
- Assignments and Exercises.....165 Points (40%)
- Midterm Exam.....100 Points (10%)
- Final Exam.....150 Points (15%)

**Grading Criteria**

The UNT scale for grading is as follows:

- A = 90 - 100
- B = 80 - 89
- C = 70 - 79
- D = 60 - 69
- F = 59 and below

**Academic  
Misconduct**

Cheating and disciplinary action for cheating is defined by the UNT Policy Manual Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. While the frank interchange of ideas is a hallmark of graduate education, disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will be dealt with as outlined in the UNT Policy Manual Code of Student Conduct and Discipline: [http://www.unt.edu/policy/UNT\\_Policy/volume3/18\\_1\\_11.html](http://www.unt.edu/policy/UNT_Policy/volume3/18_1_11.html)

**ADA Compliance**

Anyone with a disability that will require accommodation under the terms of federal regulations must present a written accommodation request to the instructor within eleven days after the first class session. Copies of the school's ADA Compliance Policy, ADA Policy on Auxiliary Aids and Reasonable Accommodation, and the ADA Grievance Procedures are available through the main office of the School of Library and Information Sciences (ISB 205, telephone 940-565-2445). It is also recommended that you register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (University Union 318A, telephone 940-565-4323).

**Student Evaluation  
of Teaching  
Effectiveness**

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. We are very interested in the feedback we get from students, as we work to continually improve our teaching. We consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**Important Notice  
for  
F-1 Students**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

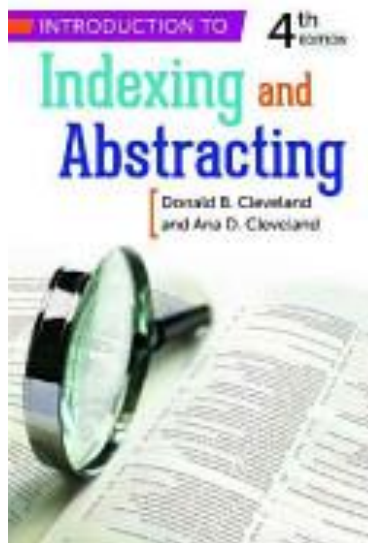
(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Advising Office. The UNT International Advising Office has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Advising Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [international@unt.edu](mailto:international@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

**Readings**

**Textbook:** Cleveland, Donald B. and Ana D. Cleveland. *Introduction to Indexing and Abstracting*, 4<sup>th</sup>., Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2013.



The list of readings for each topic changes frequently. Please check the individual topic for the list of current readings.

# Calendar Spring 2015

Due Date	Module	Readings	Assignments
January 20	Log into the Course	Read carefully Course Instructions	Post a short biography of yourself on the Discussion Forum  Start to work on assignments due Jan. 26 <sup>th</sup>
January 26	Module 1: Introduction to Indexing and Abstracting: Background and Nature of Information	<b>Textbook:</b> Chapters 1, 2 and 3  <b>Supplementary:</b> Set 1	1. Indexing Exercise 1 due <i>Part-1: The resulting SkyIndex practice index</i> <i>Part-II: A comparison of indexing software</i>  2. Post Reading Discussions  3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate
February 02	Module 2: The Relationship of Information Organization, Access, and Retrieval	<b>Textbook:</b> Chapters 4, 5 and 6  <b>Supplementary:</b> Set 2	1. Indexing Exercise 2 due - <i>Part-I: Index an article</i> - <i>Part II: Comment on the indexing process</i>  2. Post Reading Discussions  3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate
February 09	Work on group project	None	Work on group project

Due Date	Module	Readings	Assignments
February 16	Module 3: Types of Indexes and Abstracts	<p><b>Textbook:</b> Chapters 7, 8 and 9</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Set 3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Indexing Exercise 3 due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Group paper</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Post Reading Discussions</li> <li>3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate</li> </ol>
February 23	Module 4: The Indexing and Abstracting Process	<p><b>Textbook:</b> Chapters 10 and 11</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Set 4</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Indexing Exercise 4 due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Comments on group works</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Post Reading Discussions</li> <li>3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate</li> </ol>
March 02	Module 5: Indexing and Abstracting a Document	<p><b>Textbook:</b> Chapters 12 and 18</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Set 5</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Indexing Exercise 5 due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Part I: Index academic articles</i></li> <li>- <i>Part II: Write abstracts</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Post Reading Discussions</li> <li>3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate</li> </ol>
March 09	Midterm Exam	None	1. Midterm Exam
March 16	Spring Break	None	None
March 23	Module 6. Book Indexing	<p><b>Textbook:</b> Chapters 13 and 14</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Set 6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Indexing Exercise 6 due <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Create Back of the book index</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Post Reading Discussions</li> <li>3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate</li> </ol>

Due Date	Module	Readings	Assignments
Mar. 30	Module 7: Indexing Specific Subjects and Special Formats	<p><b>Textbook:</b> Chapters 15 and 16</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Set 7</p>	<p>1. Indexing Exercise 7 due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Part I: Index the painting</i></li> <li>- <i>Index II: Index Newspaper story</i></li> <li>- <i>Part III: Index music</i></li> </ul> <p>2. Post Reading Discussions</p> <p>3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate</p>
April 06	Module 8: Indexing and the Internet	<p><b>Textbook:</b> Chapter 17, 19</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Set 8</p>	<p>1. Indexing Exercise 8 due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Evaluation of information retrieval systems</i></li> </ul> <p>2. Post Reading Discussions</p> <p>3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate</p>
April 13	Module 9: Evaluation, Indexing/ Abstracting Services	<p><b>Textbook:</b> Chapter 20</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Set 9</p>	<p>1. Indexing Exercise 9 due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Part I: Evaluation of indexing</i></li> <li>- <i>Part II: Evaluation of abstracting resources and services</i></li> </ul> <p>2. Post Reading Discussions</p> <p>3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate</p>
April 20	Module 10: Thesaurus Construction and Evaluation  Chat with guest (Note 7PM CST)	<p><b>Textbook:</b> Chapters 21, 22 and 23</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Set 10</p>	<p>1. Indexing Exercise 10 due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Evaluation of thesauri</i></li> </ul> <p>2. Post Reading Discussions</p> <p>3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate</p>

Due Date	Module	Readings	Assignments
April 27	Module 11: Professional Aspects	<b>Textbook:</b> Chapters 21, 22 and 23  <b>Supplementary:</b> Set 11	1. Indexing Exercise 11 due - <i>Reviewing indexing sites and resources</i>  2. Post Reading Discussion for Supplementary Readings only  3. Read Classmates' postings and respond as appropriate
May 04	Pre-final	None	None
May 11	Final Exam	None	Final Exam

