Introduction:
This course will cover the development and use of online information services. We will concentrate on the study of available databases in different fields. You will learn about good practices for conducting online searches; client interviews; developing, promoting, and evaluating online services; as well as current trends in the field. The course includes the basic theoretical foundations of online searching as well as extensive hands-on experience with several databases and search interfaces.

Goals of the course

To provide students with an understanding of online information sources and the skills necessary to retrieve information effectively and efficiently from these resources.

Course objectives:

At the conclusion of the course, students should:
• be able to describe the basic processes involved in digital information access
• be aware of the cognitive, affective, as well as procedural aspects of information retrieval
• be familiar with a variety of online electronic sources of information
• be able to apply digital information access principles, techniques, and critical thinking skills to perform various types of library and information services
• be knowledgeable about theories behind information seeking and evaluation of digital information resources
• be familiar with the issues of interest to information professionals related to digital information systems and services

Prerequisites:

SLIS 5600 or SLIS 4600 is a prerequisite. Please notify the instructor immediately if you have not taken SLIS 5600 or SLIS 4600.

Textbook and complementary materials:

Required textbook:
This textbook is available through the UNT bookstore but you can also find it through any other bookstore.

These are other books that can be used to complement our textbook but they are not required:


Other assigned readings and articles will be made available through each unit in Blackboard.

**Grading and evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (postings, readings, and reviews)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Assignments, Searches and Quizzes</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Database Evaluation Assignment</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search Journals (Group project)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliographic Instruction Project</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Students only</strong> (Undergraduate – not required)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra credit searches</td>
<td>1 point each (up to 5 extra credit searches)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The course is organized in 7 modules that include readings, assignments, search exercises and quizzes. **Assignments must be turned in by 11:59 pm of the due date. With the exception of extraordinary circumstances (life changing events or illnesses), work submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.**

Participation plays an important role in your final grade. Participation includes posting article reviews and messages relevant to the topics covered in the class, logged activity in the system (time in the system, number of messages read, number of postings in the discussion fora, etc.) as well as a *subjective grade given by the instructor*. Since this is an on-line class, you are expected to check the blackboard site at least twice a week. Your participation will be evaluated three times during the semester (please see the class calendar for specific dates). You are required to post a minimum of 2 article reviews during every period of participation (for a total of 6 article reviews during the semester) to ensure that you get a B in participation. Students who want to get an A in participation need to post at least 3 article reviews during each period (for a total of at least 9 article reviews during the semester). You are also expected to read your classmates’ reviews and
post substantive comments. Please keep in mind that your participation grade will reflect not only the number of messages that you post but also the quality of them. Please think of these fora as those you will find in a professional society where high quality, fairness, respect for others and accuracy of the opinions and information presented are expected from all participants. Students are strongly encouraged to participate regularly in the discussion fora during the entire semester. Failure to do so could severely affect your final grade.

The table below shows the point range for graduate and undergraduate students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Graduate Points</th>
<th>Undergraduate Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>112.5-125</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>100-112.49</td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75-99</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 75</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contacting the instructor**

You are welcome to contact me by email or through the chat application in Blackboard. However, please keep in mind that I may not be answering e-mails as promptly during weekends or holidays. You can also use the different forums available in Blackboard to ask questions.

**Academic misconduct**

According to the Policy of “Student Standards of Academic Integrity” (Approved: 02/2009), academic dishonesty refers to cheating and plagiarism. The term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;

b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;

c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university;

d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s).

e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to:
a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and

b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

The University of North Texas has disciplinary procedures in place that can be found in the UNT Policy of Student Standards of Academic Integrity (http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf) as well as the DLIS Academic Misconduct Policy (http://www.lis.unt.edu/main/viewpage.php?cid=151).

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class and will have serious consequences. Work that includes instances of plagiarism or cheating will automatically have an “F” (Fail) grade in the assignment. All cases of academic misconduct will be reported and handled according to the UNT/LIS policy.

**Statement on ADA compliance policy**

Any student with a disability that will require accommodation under the terms of federal regulations must present a written accommodation request to the instructor on or before the second week of class. It is recommended that the student register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (University Union 318-A; 940-565-4323) - http://www.unt.edu/oda/.

Copies of the School's ADA Compliance Policy, ADA Policy on Auxiliary Aids and Reasonable Accommodation, and ADA Grievance Procedures are available through the School Office (ISB 205; 940-565-2445).