LIS 9004 RESEARCH METHODS AND STATISTICS
Graduate Program of Library and Information Science
Faculty of Information & Media Studies, The University of Western Ontario
Winter 2017
Class meets Wednesdays, 1:30 – 4:20 p.m., NCB 293
Course SharePoint Site: http://courses.fims.uwo.ca/mckechnie/lis9004 (Note: There is a link to this site in the Student area of the Intranet under the Faculty/Course sites heading)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to qualitative and quantitative research methods. Topics covered include: the research process from finding a researchable question through data gathering and analysis to dissemination of results; qualities of well designed research; ethical considerations in research; and basic concepts and techniques in qualitative and quantitative data analysis.
Note: Learning outcomes for LIS 9004 are posted on the course SharePoint site.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Wednesday, January 11, 2017**
   1.1 Introduction
   1.2 Overview of the course and assignments

2. **Wednesday, January 18, 2017**
   2.1 Getting started 1: Research - What's it all about?
      2.11 What is research?
      2.12 Different approaches to research
      2.13 Steps in the research process
   2.2 Getting started 2: Where do researchers start?
      2.21 Reviewing the literature
      2.22 The role of theory in research
      2.23 Researchable and non-researchable questions
   2.3 Making sense of research design & data analysis 1: Researchable questions

3. **Wednesday, January 25, 2017**
   3.1 Some important research concepts 1
      3.11 Concepts, variables, operational definitions
      3.12 Validity, trustworthiness and reliability
   3.2 Making sense of research design & data analysis 2: Operational definitions

4. **Wednesday, February 1, 2017**
   4.1 Some important research concepts 2
      4.11 Sampling
      4.12 Generalizability and transferability
   4.2 Making sense of research design & data analysis 3: How good is this sample?
   4.3 Group presentation/workshop 1: Using secondary data in research projects – An Overview of the Canadian Census as a resource for research projects

5. **Wednesday, February 8, 2017**
   5.1 Making sense of research design & data analysis 4: Statistics – Levels of measurement
   5.2 Finding out by asking 1: Surveys
   5.3 Group presentation/workshop 2: Constructing survey questions and designing formats for surveys

6. **Wednesday, February 15, 2017**
   6.1 Making sense of research design & data analysis 5: Statistics – Measures of central tendency
   6.2 Finding out by asking 2: Interviews
   6.3 Group presentation/workshop 3: Strategies for recording the content of interviews
   6.4 *En route rendezvous* – An opportunity for us to talk about how the course is going and what we might change to make it better.

   Wednesday, February 22, 2017
   Reading week – No class

7. **Wednesday, March 1, 2017**
   7.1 Making sense of research design & data analysis 6: Statistics – Measures of distribution
   7.2 Finding out by asking 3: Focus groups
   7.3 Group presentation/Workshop 4: Managing focus groups

8. **Wednesday, March 8, 2017**
   8.1 Making sense of research design & data analysis 7: Statistics – Probability, the normal curve, statistical testing and measures of significance. Reading the results of statistical tests
   8.2 Finding out by looking 1: Ethnography and observation
   8.3 Group presentation/workshop 5: Keeping field notes

9. **Wednesday, March 15, 2017**
   9.1 Finding out by looking 2: Content analysis and unobtrusive measures
   9.2 Analyzing qualitative data: Coding
   9.3 Making sense of research design & data analysis 8: Qualitative coding
   9.4 Group presentation/workshop 7: Physical trace measures

10. **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**
    10.1 Finding out by looking back: Historical methods
    10.2 Group presentation/workshop 8: Identifying and working with primary materials for LIS history
    10.3 Doing it right 1: Budgeting for research projects
    10.4 Doing it right 2: Research ethics

11. **Wednesday, March 29, 2017**
    11.1 Finding out by changing the world – Experiments
    11.2 Group presentation/Workshop 9: The visual presentation of data

12. **Wednesday, April 5, 2017**
    12.1 Sharing the results of research
    12.11 Writing up results
    12.12 The academic peer review and publishing process

13. **Wednesday, April 12, 2017**
    13.1 Research in action: Brief presentations from 3 FIMS researchers
    13.2 Course summary and review