

1. Course Information

LIS 9801: ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS I

COURSE MEETINGS: Tuesdays 9:00-11:50, FIMS-Nursing Building 4070

2. Instructor Information

Heather Hill

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3. Course Description

The role of theory in research. The choice of a research problem. Design of research projects. Use of a range of research methods.

Students completing this course will:

- Understand the role of theory in research;
- Be able to identify appropriate research problems;
- Become familiar with the range of qualitative research methods appropriate to investigating research problems in library and information science;
- Understand the ethical issues related to research, especially research involving humans;
- Be able to examine critically and discuss qualitative research;
- Be able to design a basic research project, collect and analyze data.

Assignments will consist of a multi-phase pilot study and evidence of class preparation and participation.

4. Course Materials

All course readings will be available in the FIMS Graduate Library or through Western Libraries.

5. Methods of Evaluation

1. Evidence of class preparation and participation 20%
 - a. Weekly reading reports (10%)
 - b. Weekly in-class participation (10%)

2. Multi-phase pilot study. 80%
 - a. Weekly reflective memos (10%)
 - b. Individual written assignments (due 4:30 the day before the week's class):
 - i. Structured observation and physical trace measures (15%, Week 5)
 - ii. Interviewing (15%, ~Week 7)
 - iii. Coding and memoing (15%, ~Week 8)
 - iv. Field observation (15%, ~Week 11)
 - c. Group poster and presentation (10%, Week 12 or 13, to be confirmed)

6. Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

7. Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.