

LIS9350 An Introduction to Information Behaviour

Winter 2020

Instructor

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Office hours: FNB 4118, TBA

Class Times

Wednesdays, 9:00-11:50 pm, FNB 3220

Course description

Information behaviour includes motivations for seeking or not seeking information, preferences for particular information sources and channels, the impact of individuals' social/professional role and the situations in which they find themselves, as well as internal and external barriers to information seeking and use. The emphasis is on people, not just information. The focus each week is on the information behaviours known or likely to be displayed by participants in a particular context or situation.

Course objectives

- To introduce the major concepts, theories and models of information behaviour (IB) and help students to examine them critically.
- To introduce students to a wide range of studies of IB so that students may develop a broad knowledge of this field of research.
- To explore research methods for studying IB and to provide students with the opportunity to carry out a small-scale study.

Course materials

There is no required text for the course. Weekly readings are available in the Graduate Resource Centre, on the internet, or available online via Western Libraries.

Evaluation

Evaluation of assignments is based on the MLIS Guidelines to the Grade Range

http://intranet.fims.uwo.ca/graduate/academic_programs/mlis/mlis_grading.html

Assignment due dates are subject to change.	
IB in pop culture/current events [Jan 15/20]	10%
Questions re: weekly readings [ongoing]	15%
IB conceptual models case study [Feb 5/20]	15%
"Small worlds" short paper [Feb 26/20]	15%
Interview report [Mar 25/20]	20%
Promotional tool for IB "solution" [Apr 8/20]	10%
Participation/attendance [ongoing]	15%
Total	100%

Class Policies

--**Late assignments** that have not been granted an extension will lose 5% per day or any portion of a day, until the assignment is submitted. Late assignments will not be accepted after one week, and the grade will be recorded as zero.

--**Extensions** for assignments will be considered, if you notify me by e-mail at least one week in advance of the due date. Accommodation will also be made on religious, medical, or compassionate grounds.

--**Appeals** regarding graded assignments must be made within 3 weeks of receiving the graded assignment.

--**Participation/attendance:** Class attendance is mandatory. Points are deducted for late arrivals or missed classes, etc. Points are awarded for substantive, constructive participation in class, including discussion, questions, engagement in class exercises, active listening, etc.

--**Support services:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Western's "Health and Wellness"
http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

--**Student Accessibility Services:** Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating

persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both SAS and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

For more information, see <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>

Scholastic 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