

**LIS 9004 Research Methods and Statistics
Fall 2021**

Course Information

LIS 9004: Research Methods and Statistics
FNB 3220 – in-person

Instructor Information

Instructor: Yimin Chen, ychen582@uwo.ca

Office Hours: TBA

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. This course incorporates in-class research practice activities as well as individual and group-based assignments.

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Master of Library and Information Science program.

Course-Level Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course requirements, students will be able to:

1. Design

- a. Ask: Construct research questions to explore specific scholarly and/or professional problem solving, user needs assessment, and evaluation in library and information fields (Program-level learning outcome 1)
- b. Design: Identify the best approach for a research project in library and information studies; explain decision making processes at each step of the research process (Program-level learning outcome 1,2,3)

2. Collect

Identify and collect appropriate data to address a specific research question. (Program-level learning outcome 2)

3. Analyze and interpret

- a. Analyze: Apply qualitative and quantitative methodological frameworks to analyze data (Program-level learning outcome 2)
- b. Interpret: Interpret findings by discussing implications for practice and/or theory in library and information studies. (Program-level learning outcome 2)

4. Critique

- a. Evaluate. Critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative research in library and information studies. (Program-level learning outcome 2)
- b. Align. Articulate ethical concerns associated with library and information studies research and their significance for practice; conduct research that aligns with ethical standards for research and professional practice (Program-level learning outcome 3)

5. Mobilize

- a. Communicate: Effectively communicate research findings through speaking, writing, and presenting about them to diverse audiences in formal and informal professional and scholarly domains. (Program-level learning outcome 9)
- b. Apply: Critically apply basic principles and techniques of research to problem-solving, user needs assessment, and evaluation in library and information fields, forming sound opinions based on critical analysis of valid and reliable data. (Program-level learning outcomes 4, 6, 7, 8).

Course Requirements

To complete this course you must attend all classes, read required readings, participate in class workshops, and complete the following written assignments:

Assignment	Grade %
Participation	10%
Research exercises (2 total at 5% each)	10%
Individual assignments	(40% total)
1. Article response. Due week 3	20%
2. Survey design. Due week 6	20%
Research proposal	(40% total)
1. Annotated bibliography. Due week 8	5%
2. Poster presentation	10%
3. Final research proposal. Due week 13	25%

Evaluation

Evaluation of assignments is based on the MLIS Grading Guidelines:

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

Attendance

Attendance at and timely arrival to all classes is required and will be monitored each class. See the MLIS Student Handbook for details:

https://intranet.fims.uwo.ca/graduate/academic_programs/mlis/attendance.html

Students needing to negotiate absences need to inform the instructor in advance in order to arrange for make-up work. In case of emergency absences, students must contact the instructor as soon as possible afterwards. Students can expect absence or lateness without permission or explanation to be reflected in their participation grade.

Course Materials

All materials will be on reserve through the FIMS Graduate Library and/or available electronically.

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

Health/Wellness 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.

Accessible Education Western (AEW)

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 strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW 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.

LIS 9004 Fall 2021 COURSE SCHEDULE

	LECTURE	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Class 1 Sept 9	Introduction	
Class 2 Sept 16	Types of research methods, operational definitions	
Class 3 Sept 23	I. Finding out by asking Survey methods	Due: Assignment 1: Critical article review
Class 4 Sept 30	Statistics: summarizing survey data, looking for relationships	
Class 5 Oct 7	Qualitative interviews and focus groups	Stats exercise
Class 6 Oct 14	Analyzing qualitative data	Due: Assignment 2: Survey design
Class 7 Oct 21	II. Finding out by looking Ethnographic/participant observation	Qualitative analysis exercise
Class 8 Oct 28	Content analysis, unobtrusive measures	Due: Annotated bibliography
Nov 1-5	READING WEEK	
Class 9 Nov 11	Experimental and quasi-experimental design	
Class 10 Nov 18	III. Putting it all together Writing the research proposal, research ethics	
Class 11 Nov 25	Publication and its pitfalls	
Class 12 Dec 2	Decolonizing research	
Class 13 Dec 9	Wrap-up	Due: Research proposal & poster