1. **Course Information**

GRADLIS 9004: Research Methods

Online

2. **Instructor Information**

GRADLIS 9004A-650 Pam McKenzie, pmckenzi@uwo.ca FNB 4116

3. **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.

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

The course will be divided into four modules: Module 1: Getting started – Designing/Evaluating/Asking (4 weeks), Module 2: Analyzing (2 weeks), Module 3: Collecting (4 weeks), Module 4: Mobilizing (3 weeks). Classes will be held asynchronously with the opportunity for small-group synchronous interaction and a synchronous end-of-term research showcase. To complete this course you must participate in all virtual modules, read required readings, participate in class activities, and do the following written assignments:

- Brief, informal reports on preparation for and participation in course activities
- Analysis of published research
- Reflection on preparation, participation, and learning
- Synthesis of small-group discussion
- Research proposal assignment
    - Literature search/review matrix
    - Research object and research showcase
    - Proposal matrix

4. **Course Materials**

All materials will be available electronically.

5. **Methods of Evaluation**   **Value**

- Brief, informal reports on preparation for and participation in course activities   30% total
    - (multiple, due throughout the term)
- Analysis of published research   10% total
    - (last day of Module 1, last day of Module 3)
- Reflection on preparation, participation, and learning   10%
    - (ongoing throughout the term, report due last day of Module 4)
- Synthesis of small-group discussion   10%
    - (one per student, due throughout the term)
- Research proposal assignment   40% total
    - Literature search/review matrix (last day of Module 2, 10%)
    - Research object and synchronous research showcase (Module 4, final week of term. Showcase dates/times to be scheduled around to student availability, 15%)
    - Proposal matrix (last day of Module 4, 15%)

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.