

**LIS 9004: Research Methods**  
**Faculty of Information & Media Studies**  
**Fall 2023**  
**September 13 – December 9**  
Tuesdays 9:00-11:50 am

**Location:** FNB 3220 (in-person)

**Instructor:** Melissa Adler

**Office Hours:** 1:00-2:00, Tuesdays FNB 4136 or by appointment

**MLIS Research Week:** October 31 – November 4, 2022

**Land Acknowledgement:**

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Chonnocton peoples who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In this region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).

**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 both research exercises and written assignments, with some options for group work.

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 Materials**

All reading materials will be available via OWL or the FIMS Graduate Library.

**Course Requirements**

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

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points</b>
Participation	10
Article thinkpiece + discussion	15
Research proposal:	45 total:
1. Literature review/matrix	15
2. Research poster	15
3. Final written proposal	20
In-class research exercises (4)	25 total:
1. Literature search	5
2. Qualitative analysis	5
3. Quantitative analysis	5
4. Interviews	5
5. Survey design	5

Late assignments will be penalized at 5% per day overdue.

**Evaluation**

Evaluation of assignments is based on the MLIS Grading Guidelines:

[http://intranet.fims.uwo.ca/graduate/academic\\_programs/mlis/mlis\\_grading.html](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](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.

### **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.

### **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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)