1. **Course Information**

GRADLIS 9004-650: Managing and working in information organizations Winter 2023

Synchronous sessions Thursdays 6:30-8:30, on Zoom. Synchronous class lengths will vary; this period will include both class time and optional office hours.

2. **Instructor Information**

Pam McKenzie, pmckenzi@uwo.ca.

Teaching Assistant: to be confirmed.

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).

Enrollment restrictions: Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Master of Library and Information Science program, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

Course format: The course will run in a "flipped classroom" blend of asynchronous online and synchronous face-to-face activities. Students are expected to watch videos and complete readings, assignments, and preparatory individual activities before joining the class on Thurdays 6:30-8:30. The majority of each synchronous session will consist of in-class time, in which we'll engage in collaborative small-group and full-class activities and discussion. This will be followed by an office hour for which students may stay to ask questions, talk informally, and/or work in small groups.

Course timeline: The course is organized into four modules

        Module 1: Asking and evaluating (4 classes)
1. Introduction, asking questions
2. Searching the literature, reading like a researcher
3. Research ethics
4. Proposal writing and presenting research data
        Module 2. Analyzing and interpreting (2 lessons)
5. Quantitative approaches to data analysis
6. Qualitative and Indigenous approaches to data analysis
        Module 3. Collecting (5 classes)
7. Survey research
8. Interviews
9. Observing people's behaviour
10. Observing what people leave behind I: Physical trace measures
11. Observing what people leave behind II: Documents as data
        Module 4. Communicating (2 classes)
12. Using research: Evidence-based practice, Doing research for scholarly and practical purposes, Consuming research: Serving researchers and other users
13. Communicating research: synchronous research showcase (synchronous session will likely be longer, depending on the number of students in the class)

Course requirements: To complete this course you must participate in all virtual modules, read required readings, participate in class activities, and do the following assignments:

1. Qualitative data analysis assignment
2. Interview assignment
3. Article Discussion assignment

4. Research proposal assignment
5. Self- and peer assessment of course preparation, engagement, and learning

4. **Course Materials**

All materials will be available electronically via OWL or library reserves. Some will also be available in hard copy in the FIMS Graduate Library.

5. **Methods of Evaluation**

1. Qualitative data analysis assignment due by 6 PM Thursday February 16 20%
2. Writing and testing interview questions assignment due by 6 PM Thursday March 9 20%
3. Research proposal assignment (45% total, due throughout the term)
    a. Forum post, come to class prepared to discuss research ideas. Due Thursday January 12, ungraded
    b. Part 1: Literature search/review matrix due by 6 PM Thursday February 2, 20%
    c. Part 2: Final proposal matrix due by 4 PM Thursday April 7, 20%
    d. Part 3: Research object/FIMS research showcase: Research object due by 6 PM **Monday** April 10 to ensure that showcase guests have a chance to engage with it before the April 14 showcase, 15% grade)
4. Self-assessment of course preparation, engagement, and learning (feedback on each component, graded end of term only), 5%
    a. Initial goal-setting exercise due 6:00 PM January 12
    b. Midterm self-assessment due 6:00 PM February 16
    c. End-of-term self/peer assessments due 12:00 PM **Friday, April 14** (the day after the synchronous showcase)

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

Information academic appeals and discipline: More information is available at this link: https://grad.uwo.ca/administration/regulations/13.html

7. **Support Services**

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.