

NS 380 – Senior Seminar
Fall 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Nancy A. Johnston, Ph.D.

CREDITS: 1

CLASS TIME & PLACE: Tuesday, 12:00 to 1:00 PM; MLH 310

OFFICE: MLH B36

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

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Goals for this course: Students will learn those research methods necessary to perform creditable research in an appropriate field of science, mathematics, or computer science. These will include literature searches necessary to begin such research and the delivery techniques necessary to present their results. Emphasis will be given to writing citations and preparing abstracts.

Required Texts: *None*

Course Outcomes:

1. Acquisition of local research resource knowledge and completion of quizzes demonstrating knowledge throughout the semester.
2. Demonstration of the ability to do a thorough literature search in an appropriate area, documenting use of library resources and of resources outside the library.
3. Preparation of a sensible presentation outline on a chosen topic. The outline must clearly state the objective of the presentation, the sources for its content, the methods used to evaluate the content for qualitative and quantitative reliability, and the proposed method of delivery.
4. Ability to prepare a quality rough draft of a presentation including a bibliography and proposed presentation techniques.
5. Ability to write a quality abstract of fifty words or less on the proposed presentation including the proposed title of the presentation.
6. Completion of a finished set of notes, presentation media, and other presentation materials to be used in the oral presentation.
7. Experience in giving a 15 to 20 minute research presentation to be followed by a 5 minute question and answer session.
8. Experience in active engagement with other presentations through active listening and asking thoughtful questions.

Methods of Instruction: These will vary greatly throughout the semester. Some instruction will be via web pages, including exams taken online via Blackboard. Live instruction will vary from instructor to instructor. Where possible, guests will be invited to present their notions on research. How to do good research is a very qualitative topic, with quantifiable techniques varying tremendously among various disciplines.

Methods of Evaluation:

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory unless otherwise stated. Students will be graded 10% on attendance, with a percent grade given on the percent of classes attended. Attendance at science seminars is also required, for an additional 10% of your grade.

Assignments: Students will be graded 30% on various assignments and quizzes given throughout the semester, including Blackboard quizzes given by the library.

Final Presentation: The remaining 50% of a student's grade will be determined by a final presentation of research (not original research). A detailed breakdown of grading on the research project will be made when assignments are given. There will be no formal final exam given.

Attendance	10%
Assignments	30%
Seminars	10%
Final Presentation	50%
TOTAL	100%

Grade Scale

A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 90%
C	70% - 80%
D	60% - 70%
F	< 60%

Note: Pluses and minuses may be given at the discretion of the instructor.

Important information:

1) If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have important emergency medical information to share with me, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. You may also contact the Office of Student Life, Room, 211, Reid Centennial Hall.

2) An incomplete can be granted only if a passing grade has been maintained, 80% of the course work is completed, and there is a documented family or medical emergency.

3) Important academic dates:

The last date to withdraw from this course with a W on your transcript is September 5.

The last date to drop this class without a permanent entry on your transcript is October 31.

After that date, withdrawal is permitted by petition only and approval of the division chair. The division chair requires documentation of extraordinary circumstances that prevented you from withdrawing by the deadline.

NS380: Senior Seminar Course Outline, Fall 2008

Note: this schedule will change! Additional assignments and quizzes may be added as well.

Week	Date	Assignment	Comments
1	T 8/26	Orientation to Scientific Literature	Syllabus and advisor forms available
2	T 9/2	Go to www.lcsc.edu/library . Do information literacy modules 1A, 1C, 1D, and 1E. Take Blackboard exams on each.	<p>Meet with Barbara Barnes in LIB classroom</p> <p>You may take the Blackboard Assessments as often as you choose. I will record the grade that exists on the end date as the grade for the assignment.</p>
3	T 9/9	<p>Do information literacy modules 2A and 2B. Take Blackboard exams on each.</p> <p>Come up with a topic of interest and then talk to a professor in the discipline of choice; from them get at least five (5) actual articles or citations pertaining to your topic of interest.</p> <p>Search medical literature databases for the effect of acid levels on coffee preference. For those sources you obtained that are citations, you will need to do a search to see whether the journals or books they are in are housed in the LCSC library; make a table indicating where you would go to find each (i.e. give the call number for print journals or books and the email address for online materials).</p>	<p><u>Due:</u> Faculty Advisor Mentoring Form & Student Topic Selection Form.</p>
4	T 9/16	Do an advanced search on the LCSC online catalogue or one of the reference databases on your topic of interest. You should choose at least 10 useful looking references other than the 5 that you originally received from your advisor and print-out their brief citations.	<p>Meet with Barbara Barnes in LIB classroom</p> <p><u>Due:</u> (1) print-out of citations found in coffee search; (2) table showing full reference and location of the 5 sources your advisor gave you</p>
5	T 9/23	Start rough draft of presentation outline	<p><u>Due:</u> print-out of at least 10 citations from your initial library search for your project.</p>

6	T 9/30	Continue working on presentation outline (I'll check your rough drafts at beginning of class) Find an abstract (preferably from one of your main sources) and report on how well abstract author followed style for journal in which abstract is published. See instructions at Abstract Report.pdf	<u>Due:</u> (1) Presentation outline rough draft
7	T 10/7	Write an article summary for one of your main references. See instructions at Article Summary Assignment.pdf	<u>Due:</u> (1) Abstract report (2) Presentation outline 2nd draft
8	T 10/14	Power point presentations. Most of you will take current outline and convert to Powerpoint format. We'll work on how to do this in class.	<u>Due:</u> (1) Article summary (2) Presentation outline to your faculty advisor
9	T 10/21	Write an abstract for your topic. See instructions at Abstract assignment.pdf	
10	T 10/28	In-class check on presentation progress.	<u>Due:</u> (1) Abstract to your faculty advisor report
11	T 11/4	Complete final outline and give to your faculty advisor	<u>Due:</u> (1) Abstract due in class; (2) Final outline to your faculty advisor
12	T 11/11	Final check on presentation preparation.	<u>Due:</u> Final presentation outline
13	T 11/18	Class presentations	
14	T 11/25	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS	
15	T 12/2	Class presentations.	
16	T 12/9	Class presentations.	
17	Th 12/18	Class presentations	