

The University of Southern Mississippi
School of Library and Information Science
Research Methods in LIS| LIS 668 | Spring 2022
Wednesday |6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. | Zoom Classroom

Contact Information

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Office Hours: By appointment

Drop Dates

Last day to add/drop without Academic/Financial Penalty (Last day to drop classes without instructor permission), **January 26th.**

Last day to make an add/drop course request or withdraw from the University and receive a grade of W, **April 6th.**

Course Prerequisites

LIS 501, LIS 505, and LIS 511 with a grade B or better.

Course Description and Goals

Survey of scientific research methods and their application to the field of library and information science (3 credit hours).

The goals of LIS 668 are to introduce the basic concepts and principles involved in scholarly research, from the evaluation of published research to the design of research projects of various methodologies, and the basics of scholarly communication. Course helps meet [ALA Core Competency 6: Research](#)

Course Objectives

By the end of the term, students will:

- Understand the theory and practice of scientific research, its history and role in building a knowledge base in library and information science and related fields;
- Understand the responsibility of professionals to add to knowledge in the field through research;
- Analyze, evaluate, and compare published reports of research studies in library and information science and in disciplines other than library and information science;
- Distinguish between different research paradigms and methods applicable to research in library and information studies;

- Identify appropriate methodologies to specific problems in library and information science; and
- Understand the meaning of plagiarism and how to avoid it.

Course Format

The course will be taught online with posted lecture notes, interactive discussion sessions in the virtual classroom, discussion board assignments, and written assignments.

Course Communication

Communication between the professor and the students will be facilitated by way of e-mail, phone, interactive discussion room, and/or discussion board. E-mail is used when private discussions are needed between the student and professor or between students. The discussion board will be an open format for all students at the same time. Group discussion boards and interactive discussions may also be used. Open discussions and forums will be facilitated.

Required Textbook – Open Source Ebook

[Social Science Research: Principles, Methods and Practices](#), 2nd ed. (2012) by Anol Bhattacharjee (ISBN 978-1475146127).

Required Materials

- Basic computer skills are assumed
- Access to university email – <https://outlook.com/usm.edu>
- Reliable online connection and computer with audio/video capabilities
- Installation, and proficient use of [Microsoft Office 365](#) – free for students, includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Online course materials: <https://usm.instructure.com> – login with your SOAR ID and password

USM Libraries provides services and resources to online learning students. The [Welcome Guide for Online Students](#) is a great starting space to see what all is offered.

Teaching Techniques/Methods

Online lectures, Web discussions, and directed readings form the basis for the course. Most readings will be from the text, but supplemental readings from journals and the Internet will be included as appropriate.

Special Health Protocol, Spring 2022

This semester, please follow our updated COVID-19 guidelines to ensure we remain as safe and healthy as we can during the continued pandemic. Our goals are to continue our in-person classes, hold events and activities on campus, and provide support to those in the community to weather the challenges we are facing.

Face-to-Face Protocol

We want everyone to follow the University's complete [Community Standards](#), which are updated as needed based on changing patterns with the virus. Face coverings are required for all indoor activities, regardless of your vaccination status, and we ask that you monitor yourself for

fever and other symptoms each day. [Temperature-taking kiosks](#) can be found in the Union, Cochran Center, and other high-traffic areas of our campuses for your convenience.

Vaccinations

If you have not yet been fully vaccinated, appointments can be made via Moffitt Health Center's [online health portal](#). If you prefer to schedule an appointment off-campus, please [see the Mississippi Department of Health's website](#). *Please note that if it has been more than six months since your last shot, [you must have a booster](#) in order to be up-to-date with vaccination.*

If You Are Exposed to COVID-19/Have Symptoms/Test Positive

It is important that everyone in the community closely monitor their own health and stay home when that will help them heal or may protect others.

- *Vaccinated students:* If you are exposed to COVID-19 and have no symptoms, wear a mask at all times and test five days after exposure. If your test is negative, continue as normal. If you have a positive COVID test, stay home for five additional days then return as long as you do not have symptoms (e.g., fever). If you have symptoms, stay home until your symptoms pass.
- *Unvaccinated students:* If you are exposed to COVID-19, stay home and test 5 days after exposure. If you have a positive COVID test, stay home for ten days (or as advised by your physician, based on symptoms), then return as long as you do not have symptoms (e.g., fever).

If you need to stay home due to COVID-19: Contact the Dean of Students office to let them know (dos@usm.edu), and contact all your professors to let them know you will be out.

In all cases: Call Moffitt Health Center at 601-266-5390 for further guidance.

Finding Support/Staying Well

Staying physically and mentally healthy is important and challenging during these pandemic times. Be sure to get enough sleep, eat regularly, and stay connected to loved ones, particularly during stressful periods. The university also has resources to help with stress management and mental health, including online support resources and in-person counseling through [Student Counseling Services](#). Eagle CARES provides a platform for all students to connect with a 24/7 emotional support network online (click [here](#) for more details). [Moffitt Health Center](#) is also available to address your health care needs, with both appointments and online resources. If you have concerns about your well-being, reach out and let us know so that we can help.

Course Workload Statement

Students are expected to invest considerable time outside of class in learning the material for this course. The expectation of the University of Southern Mississippi is that each week students should spend approximately 2-3 hours outside of class for every hour in class working on reading, assignments, studying, and other work for the course. We realize that most students work and have family or other obligations. Time management is thus critical for student success. All students should assess their personal circumstances and talk with their advisors about the

appropriate number of credit hours to take each term. Resources for academic support can be found at <https://www.usm.edu/success>.

Academic Integrity Statement

All students at the University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

- Cheating (including copying from others' work)
- Plagiarism (representing another person's words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
- Falsification of documents
- Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student
- Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members' involved
- Unauthorized academic collaboration with others
- Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do will result in academic penalties or other sanctions. If faculty determines a student has violated Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including a grade of "XF" on the transcript with notation "Failure due to academic misconduct." ([USM's Academic Integrity Policy](#))

Academic Support Resources

Please see our Student Success Website: <http://www.usm.edu/success> for information on where you can find tutoring and other academic assistance, as well as the location of key resources on campus.

If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address:

The University of Southern Mississippi

Office for Disability Accommodations

118 College Drive # 8586

Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: 601.266.5024 or 228.214.3232 Fax: 601.266.6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1.800.582.2233 (TTY) or email ODA at oda@usm.edu.

Mental Well-Being Statement

USM recognizes that students sometimes experience challenges that make learning difficult. If you find that life stressors such as anxiety, depression, relationship problems, difficulty concentrating, alcohol/drug problems, or other stressful experiences are interfering with your academic or personal success, consider contacting Student Counseling Services on campus at 601-266-4829. More information is also available at <https://www.usm.edu/student-counseling-services>. All students are eligible for free, confidential individual or group counseling services.

In the event of emergency, please call 911 or contact the counselor on call at 601-606-HELP (4357).

Nondiscrimination Statement

The University of Southern Mississippi offers to all persons equal access to educational, programmatic and employment opportunities without regard to age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy, gender identity, genetic information, religion, race, color, national origin, and/or veteran status pursuant to applicable state and federal law.

Class Policies

- Students are expected to follow the Academic Code of Honor based on academic honesty and mutual respect and follow the Southern Miss Creed.
- Students are responsible for syllabus content and knowledge of course policies and procedures. Students are required to use USM email and subscribe to [lisnews](#).
- If a student commits plagiarism, they will receive an F in the course. A student may not self-plagiarize or submit work done in another course unless receiving prior permission.
- All assignments should be saved in .docx format and uploaded to Canvas. Failure to follow specific instructions for assignment content and formatting will result in lower grades.
- All work must be in Standard English; inappropriate grammar, punctuation, and/or spelling will result in lower grades.

Attendance Policy

Unless otherwise noted, attendance is required in all scheduled live sessions. Should a student miss a live session, it is their responsibility to review the archived session as soon as possible. Also note:

- a student may miss up to 1 (one) scheduled live session (no matter the reason) without notice or penalty;
- a student may recover lost points for their second missed live session (no matter the reason) by sending the instructor a written summary (approx. 200-300 words) of the session's content;
- if a student misses 3 (three) or more scheduled live sessions (no matter the reasons), the instructor reserves the right to assign the student a final course grade of "F"

Engagement Policy

"Engagement" describes a student's:

- active participation in class (e.g., asking appropriate questions, offering observations relevant to the topic being discussed, etc.);
- attentiveness in class (i.e., remaining focused on classroom and/or group activities);
- professionalism/respectful conduct toward the instructor and fellow students; and
- familiarity with course policies and materials

An example of "negative engagement" would be asking the instructor questions for which the syllabus already provides clear answers (e.g., questions about the attendance policy).

Students are expected to choose a quiet, safe and distraction-free location for joining online sessions. Students are strictly forbidden from joining sessions in any circumstances that would

heavily distract them and/or endanger themselves or others. Examples include (but are not limited to) joining class while: operating a motor vehicle; joining another class; completing a shift at work; enjoying an evening with friends; viewing online content unrelated to the class (e.g., watching television, checking Facebook); preparing dinner; completing other academic work; etc.

Discussion Posts Policy

Unless otherwise noted, completion of all Discussion Post activities is mandatory. These activities are assigned nearly every week, and, in most cases, students usually have one week to complete them.

Each Discussion Post activity requires:

- an original post, as directed by activity's instructions (original posts should be approx. 150-250 words); and
- a minimum of 2 (two) responses to other students' posts

Each Discussion Post activity is worth 3 (three) points: original post (2 points) + 2 responses (0.5 points each) = 3 points. Discussion Post activities #1-5 will be assessed at mid-term; the remaining discussion post activities will be assessed at the end of term (see Course Schedule for deadlines). Also, note that the Discussion forums are for students: the instructor normally monitors Discussion Post contributions but does not post responses or involve himself in any of the discussions.

Assignments Policy

All written work must be submitted through Canvas unless otherwise noted. Do not email your work to the course instructor unless there is an emergency. All assignments (including Discussion Post activities) must be written in (and conform to high standards of) proper English.

Completing assignments as directed and submitting assignments on time are basic expectations only and not necessarily guarantees of high grades. An assignment's final grade is more an assessment of the assignment's quality, not completeness. It is assumed that students will improve their writing and critical thinking skills throughout the course according to the instructor's feedback and comments.

Late Work Policy

Posted deadlines are considered "hard deadlines" and late work will be penalized accordingly. Extensions on some assignments may be granted (i) at the instructor's discretion and (ii) for legitimate reasons (i.e., health, personal emergency, etc.). Students must request an extension no later than three days before the assignment's posted deadline and must be prepared to show the instructor what progress they have already made on the assignment. If a student is granted an extension on an assignment, the alternate deadline will be set by the instructor.

Final Course Grades and Incompletes

The gradebook that is available on the Canvas course management system is there for your convenience to help you keep track of your grades. However, it is not an official University

- May 18 Grades available to view in SOAR for students completing their course evaluations.

Spring 2022 Full Academic Calendar can be found at <https://www.usm.edu/registrar/spring-2022-full-academic-calendar.php>

Course Requirements

Name	Due	Points	Assessment
Plagiarism Tutorial	Jan 23	5%	Instructor review
Capstone Project Objectives	Feb 13	10%	Instructor review/rubric
Introduction Section Draft	March 6	15%	Instructor review/rubric
Literature Review Section Draft	April 3	15%	Instructor review/rubric
Methodology Section Draft	April 24	15%	Instructor review/rubric
Proposal Full Draft – Peer Review	May 10	15%	Instructor review/rubric
Weekly Attendance and Engagement	weekly	10%	Instructor review
Discussion Post Activities	weekly	15%	Discussion Post policy

Any assignments listed above must be completed individually.

Course Policies

Students are responsible for reading the course syllabus and related content and becoming familiar with course policies and procedures.

Grading Scale

A (95-100) A- (90-94) B+ (87-89) B (83-86) B- (80-82) C+ (77-79) C (73-76)
 C- (70-72) D+ (65-69) D (60-64) F (below 60)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (subject to change):

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Weekly Reading (due before weekly class meeting)</i>	<i>Assignments (due by 11:59 pm on Sunday following our weekly meeting)</i>
Week 1 January 19	Course Overview Research in LIS	Course syllabus and everything in “Course Materials” module	Discussion Post #1 Plagiarism Tutorial Assignment
Week 2 January 26	What is Research? Evaluating Published Research	Bhattacharjee, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-6); “Evaluating Research Checklist” and “Journal Acceptance Rates” (both posted in Week 2 module)	Discussion Post #2

Week 3 February 2	Research Problems	Bhattacharjee, Ch. 3; see “List of Former 695 Projects” (posted in “Course Materials” module); and “Bloom’s Taxonomy” (posted in Week 3 module)	Discussion Post #3
Week 4 February 9	Capstone Objectives Work Session	Live meeting attendance is optional	Capstone Project Objectives Your Capstone Project Idea Discussion
Week 5 February 16	Research Proposals	“Research Proposal Guidelines” (posted under Assignment #5)	
Week 6 February 23	Quantitative Methods	Bhattacharjee, Ch. 5, Ch. 8 (pp. 65-70) and Ch. 9 (pp. 73-77, 80-82)	Discussion Post #4
Week 7 March 2	Introduction Section Work Session	Live meeting attendance is optional	Introduction Section Draft
Week 8 March 9	Qualitative Methods	Bhattacharjee, Ch. 9 (pp. 78-80) and Ch. 12	Discussion Post #5
Week 9 March 16	Spring Break	NO SCHEDULED CLASS MEETING	
Week 10 March 23	Bibliometric Methods	“Overviews of Bibliometric Research and Citation Analyses” and “LibGuide: Citation Analysis” (both posted in Week 6 module)	Discussion Post #6
Week 11 March 30	Literature Review Section Work Session	Live meeting attendance is optional	Literature Review Section Draft
Week 12 April 6	Historical Methods	“Learning Historical Research” by William Cronin; and “LibGuide: Archives and Special Collections (both posted in Week 7 module)	Discussion Post #7
Week 13 April 13	Research Ethics	Bhattacharjee, Ch. 16; and see “APA Research Code of Ethics” (posted)	Discussion Post #9
Week 14 April 20	Methodology Section Work Session	Live meeting attendance is optional	Methodology Section Draft
Week 15 April 27	Scholarly Communication	“Beall’s List of Predatory Journals and Publishers” and “Beware of Predatory Publishers” (posted)	Discussion Post #11
Week 16 May 4	Course Wrap Up	NO SCHEDULED CLASS MEETING	Full Draft Peer Review Due May 10, 2022