LRC 103. 0501/62943 Internet Research Strategies (1 credit)
Fall I 2014
Syllabus

Class meets: Wednesdays 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Classroom: C237

Instructors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hong Cheng, Instructor</th>
<th>Silvia Lu, Assistant Professor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction Librarian</td>
<td>Reference and Social Media Librarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library, E101, Office H2</td>
<td>Library, E101, Office H9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:hcheng@lagcc.cuny.edu">hcheng@lagcc.cuny.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:slu@lagcc.cuny.edu">slu@lagcc.cuny.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(718) 606-6884</td>
<td>(718) 606-5424</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Office Hours: By appointment

Important Dates
- No class on Sept. 24, 2014
- Days to drop the course: Sept. 3 for 100% tuition refund; Sept. 9 for 75% refund; Sept. 15 for 50% refund; Sept. 20 for 25% refund
- Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of “W”: November 4, 2014

Textbook
No required textbooks, but there will be weekly assigned readings and/or videos. These readings and videos to watch will be posted or linked to on the class BlackBoard page, the College’s course management system.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS
This course is an introduction to the nature and use of information and information sources for study and problem-solving. Students will identify information needs and pose viable research questions; plan research strategies; access materials online and in person, in libraries and on the Internet; evaluate material found; and address ethical, legal, and socio-economic issues of the information age.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of LRC 103, you should be able to:
1. demonstrate understanding of how information is produced, organized, and disseminated in all formats in academic discourse, in libraries, and on the Internet;
2. become aware that research is a labor-intensive process of creating new knowledge;
3. formulate a viable research question on a topic of interest and develop a research plan to answer the question;
4. demonstrate the ability to choose and use a variety of tools for doing research in libraries and on the Internet;
5. critically evaluate information resources, particularly Internet resources, for authority, currency, accuracy, bias, cultural context, etc.
6. understand ethical, legal, and socio-economic issues related to the use of information, including intellectual property, copyright, plagiarism, the digital divide, etc.
PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS
This liberal arts elective course will improve students’ basic research skills using various online resources. Students will apply the information literacy concepts, inquiry, problem solving and critical thinking skills in other research-oriented courses as well as in personal lives.

GRADING POLICY
Assignments (11@ 50 points each): 550 points
Class participation: 100 points
Midterm project: 150 points
Final exam: 200 points
Total: 1000 points

ATTENDANCE
Attendance in class is mandatory. Your class participation grade (100 points) will be credited based on participation in classroom discussions and activities every week. By the college regulation, you are permitted to be absent only 15% of class time. So for this class, you are allowed to have two excused absences for the semester. If you miss more than two classes, your final grade will be reduced by a half letter. For example, from A to A-. If you must miss a class, please contact either of the instructors as soon as possible. Serious illnesses or other emergencies that result in more than two absences will require a doctor’s note or relevant documents. You are responsible for the material covered while you were absent, excused or otherwise. All lessons and assignments will be posted on BlackBoard. This must be referred to in order to make up any missed work.

ASSIGNMENTS
All assignments are due on Sundays 11:59 p.m. Students should submit all work via Blackboard. All assignments are worth 50 points, and any late assignment will result in a 5 point reduction. For example, from 45 to 40.

Each week the class will consist of a lecture, readings, and/or videos, and classroom activities. Students need to finish all readings and/or videos prior to each class and bring questions for discussion. The midterm project will be based on content from Week 1 to 6. The final exam will assess your comprehension of the material covered in the whole semester and will be aimed primarily at vocabulary and key concepts from the readings/videos.

You should expect to spend about 3 hours a week on this class.

GRADING SYSTEM
A = 93.0 +  
A- = 90.0 – 92.9  
B+ = 87.0 – 89.9  
B = 83.0 – 86.9  
B- = 80.0 – 82.9  
C+ = 77.0 – 79.9  
C = 73.0 – 76.9  
C- = 70.0 – 72.9  
D+ = 67.0 – 69.9  
D = 63.0 – 66.9  
D- = 60.0 – 62.9  
F = 59.9 or below

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Academic integrity entails absolute honesty in one’s intellectual efforts. LaGuardia’s policy (http://library.laguardia.edu/files/pdf/academicintegritypolicy.pdf) highlights the ramifications of academic integrity violations, but you should be especially aware of the policies on cheating.
and plagiarism. Cheating is any type of misrepresentation in academic work. Academic dishonesty violates everyone and anyone who depends on the integrity of the college, its degrees, certificates and its courses. Therefore the college has the important responsibility of making every effort to cultivate the highest standard of academic integrity and conduct. Such actions may include using or providing unauthorized assistance or materials on course assignments, or possessing unauthorized materials during an examination.

Plagiarism involves the representation of another's work as your own, for example: (a) submitting as one’s own any material that is copied from published or unpublished sources such as the Internet, print, computer files, audio disks, video programs or musical scores without proper acknowledgment that it is someone else’s; (b) paraphrasing another’s views, opinions or insights without proper acknowledgment or copying of any source in whole or in part with only minor changes in wording or syntax even with acknowledgment; (c) submitting as one’s own work a report, examination, paper, computer file, lab report or other assignment which has been prepared by someone else.

If you are unsure about what constitutes unauthorized help on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution, please ask me. Violations may result in the failure of the assignment, failure of the course, and/or additional disciplinary actions.

**DISABILITY STATEMENT**

Special arrangements have been made for every student in this course. If we haven't yet made the arrangements you require, it is our responsibility to do so. Please consult with one of us privately as soon as possible to discuss specific needs. Also contact the Office for Student Disabilities in room M102 (http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/osd/; email: OSD@lagcc.cuny.edu) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS CLASS**

1. Technical difficulties will not be accepted as a valid excuse for not handing in assignments or completing quizzes. It is assumed that you have access to a working computer with an Internet connection. Please contact us if you are experiencing technical difficulties. If we don’t hear from you, we assume everything is working correctly.
2. You must remember to check your LaGuardia College email account for updates and announcements for the class. This will be the primary means of communications. Please send all correspondence to both instructors.
3. You must have a valid, working BlackBoard account and LaGuardia email address.
4. You must keep pace with the class. If you get behind in this class, you will not do well. Meet all deadlines, and make sure that you are checking your email and the Coursesites/BlackBoard site for updates.
## COURSE OUTLINE

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Class Meets</th>
<th>Homework Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction and Internet History</td>
<td>Sep 10</td>
<td>Sep 14</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Information Cycle and Evaluation (1)</td>
<td>Sep 17</td>
<td>Sep 21</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Information Cycle and Evaluation (2)</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>Oct 5</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Finding Information</td>
<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Oct 12</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Choosing Information</td>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Oct 19</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Information Integrity: Preventing Plagiarism and Citation Management</td>
<td>Oct 22</td>
<td>Oct 26</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Midterm Project</td>
<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>Nov 2</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Using Statistics and U.S. Census</td>
<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Nov 9</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Copyright and Fair Use</td>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Nov 16</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Open Access and Creative Commons</td>
<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Nov 23</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Social Media Information and Privacy</td>
<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Nov 30</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>User-Generated Content and Wikipedia</td>
<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>Dec 7</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Dec 9-14</td>
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***No class meeting on Sep 24***