Dominican University
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
LIS741: Reference Sources in the Social Sciences
Summer III 2006
Tuesday, 6-9 pm

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Course Description

A survey of the production, appraisal and use of reference and information sources, including databases, in the fields making up the social sciences. Prerequisites or co- requisites: 701 and 704.

Course Objectives

This course provides an introduction to reference sources in the social sciences, focusing on the major disciplines of anthropology, sociology, psychology, history, political science, economics and geography. The class will also examine reference sources in the related fields of education and communication. Class activities and assignments are designed to acquaint students with a broad array of sources in these disciplines, and to strengthen verbal and written communication of librarians working with diverse users.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students demonstrate a working knowledge of print and electronic information retrieval procedures in the social sciences.
- Students develop user-centered strategies for solving reference service problems and demonstrate a command of current issues and trends in the social sciences.
- Students analyze, synthesize and communicate information and knowledge in a variety of formats.
- Students apply relevant research studies to tasks requiring problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- Students integrate information technologies effectively and creatively into library and information services.
- Students respond to diversity among individuals and communities through policies, collections and services.
Required Texts

The text for this course is *The Social Sciences: a Cross-Disciplinary Approach to Selected Resources, 3rd ed.*, edited by Nancy Herron (Greenwood Village, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 2002). The text will be supplemented with articles relevant to theoretical and methodological issues in the social sciences. These articles will be available on reserve, both in print and electronic form, or on the Web.

Grading

Class attendance and participation: 10%
Comparative source exercise: 10%
Electronic resources report: 15%
Weekly ready-reference questions: 35%
Final project: 30% -- an annotated guide to the literature of an interdisciplinary topic (20%) and a public presentation that grows out of the paper and bibliography (10%).

Class attendance and thoughtful participation are essential to success in this course and account for an important part of your grade. You must actively contribute to class discussions if you wish to perform well in this course. As a matter of professional courtesy, please inform me in advance if you will be late or absent from class.

All written assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Students must provide both a digital and a print copy of all work. Submit the digital copy as an e-mail attachment. Late assignments will not be accepted. All written work must be typed and error free, and written clearly and carefully in accordance with set guidelines. Since all assignments will be collected at the beginning of class, please be sure to bring an extra copy of all work in order to participate in discussions and annotate as needed.

Final grades will be based on the following GSLIS scale:

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\begin{align*}
A &= 95-100 \\
A- &= 90-94 \\
B+ &= 85-89 \\
B &= 80-84 \\
B- &= 75-79 \\
C+ &= 70-74 \\
C &= 65-69 \\
C- &= 64-below
\end{align*}
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Academic Integrity and Honesty

“All students of the GSLIS are expected to observe high standards of academic honesty and integrity. Any student whose conduct violates such standards may be subject to disciplinary action as determined by due process.” (GSLIS Bulletin, p. 48).