COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description
Survey of electronic information resources in the health sciences, including databases and Web sources. Discussion of relevant controlled vocabularies and their use in formulating and executing search strategies. The course also includes an evidence based health care component whereby students learn to analyze critically the biomedical literature and determine reference and research relevancy.

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Understand the basic principles involved in developing search strategies to retrieve citations to the biomedical literature;
2. Become acquainted with controlled vocabularies used to index the biomedical literature;
3. Become acquainted with reference tools utilized in health sciences information retrieval;
4. Develop an understanding of evidence based health care techniques employed to analyze critically the biomedical literature and determine reference and research relevancy.

Course Overview
This course is designed to provide an overview of various health sciences electronic information resources as well as controlled vocabularies used to index the biomedical literature. Students will gain hands-on experience developing and executing search strategies. Students will gain
exposure to evidence based health care techniques employed to evaluate the literature and
determine reference and research relevancy.

Topics to be covered:

1. Health sciences electronic information resources;
2. Controlled vocabularies;
3. Search strategy formulation and execution;
4. Evidence based health care.

**Required Reading**

**Required Textbook:**

**Supplemental Materials:**


Handouts will be distributed throughout the course of the semester.

Select Web sites will be identified and reviewed throughout the course of the semester.

CINAHL Subject Heading List. Glendale, CA: CINAHL.


Grading Parameters
This course is taught in distance education format. The majority of the course is conducted via Blackboard. It is expected that students will devote a considerable amount of time outside the formal class to study materials covered as well as become acquainted with the literature and reference tools.

There will be a series of exercises to be completed by students. These will be posted each week in Blackboard. Once completed, class exercises do NOT need to be returned to the instructor.

There will be a series of assignments distributed throughout the course of the semester. These assignments are based on information and resources covered in the class exercises and class readings. These assignments comprise the majority of the student’s grade. Completed assignments are expected to be returned to the instructor prior to or on the date noted on the assignment. Late assignments will only be accepted with prior permission from the instructor.

There will be a series of 8 assignments, a term paper, and a reflection paper required for the course:

Assignment 1 – Access Medicine Evaluation
Assignment 2 – Medical Subject Headings
Assignment 3 – Search Strategies and Execution
Assignment 4 – Research Study Design
Assignment 5 – Medical Subject Headings
Assignment 6 – Search Strategies
Assignment 7 – Search Strategies
Assignment 8 – E-Health Resource
Assignment 9 – Term Paper
Assignment 10 – Reflection Paper

Details for each assignment will be distributed along with the assignment according to dates indicated on Course Calendar. Each assignment will have a due date noted on it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class assignments, exercises, and projects</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Grading Policy:
Class assignments are due on or by the due date noted on the individual assignments. The majority of the student’s grade is based on the cumulative total received on individual assignments. Late assignments will only be accepted with prior approval from the instructor.
Grading Scale
- 90 – 100 = A (Exceptional Achievement)
- 80 –  89 = B (High Achievement)
- 70 –  79 = C (Average Achievement)
- 0 –   69 = E (Failing)

Participation
Class participation constitutes 5% of the student's grade. Students are expected to complete weekly exercises and readings.

Submission of Course Assignments
Course assignments should be submitted via e-mail as Word attachments. Include the course number (i.e., LIS690) and assignment number (e.g., assignment #1) in the subject line. BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON ALL ASSIGNMENTS.

Assignments are due by midnight of the due date noted on each assignment.

Late work will only be accepted with prior permission of the instructor.
TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Distance Learning Students are expected to have a minimum level of technological acumen and the availability of technological resources. Students must have regular access to a computer with a reliable Internet connection and audio capabilities. Internet Explorer 7 (IE) or Firefox 2.x are the recommended browsers for those using a Windows-based PC. Those using Firefox 3.x may encounter problems with assignment uploads. Those using an Apple computer with MAC OS X (10.5.x) may use Firefox 3.x or Safari 3.x.

Please be certain that your computer and/or browser allow you to view Adobe Reader documents (.pdf). Microsoft Office and other software products are free for students: https://iweb.uky.edu/MSDownload/.

As your instructor, I am your first go-to person for technology problems. If you need more immediate assistance, please contact TASC or UKIT.

Teaching and Learning Services Center (TASC)
http://www.uky.edu/TASC/; 859- 257- 8272

Information Technology Customer Service Center (UKIT)
http://www.uky.edu/UKIT/; 859- 257-1300

Library Services
Distance Learning Services
http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/DLLS
• Carla Cantagallo, DL Librarian
• Local phone number: 859 257- 0500, ext. 2171; long-distance phone number: (800) 828- 0439 (option #6)
• Email: dllservice@email.uky.edu
• DL Interlibrary Loan Service:

Course Reserves

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

Policies concerning academic integrity, excused absences and academic accommodations due to disability are available online at: http://www.uky.edu/CIS/SLIS/academics/policies.pdf
COURSE CALENDAR

August 25
Introduction.
Overview of the course.
Discussion of course outline, assignments, exercises, projects, and expectations.
Text and supplemental materials.

READING: NLM MEDLINE Fact Sheet and DIALOG MEDLINE Blue Sheet.

NLM MeSH Fact Sheet.

Look at NLM Medical Subject Headings web page located at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/ and read sections under All About MeSH.

ASSIGNMENT #1 DISTRIBUTED, DUE SEPTEMBER 1.

September 1
Assignment #1 due.
Read article: Radiation Treatment of Oral Epidemic Kaposi’s Sarcoma Lesions: Potential Adverse Effects

September 8
Select Internet resources.
MeSH.
MEDLINE.

READING: Greenhalgh Foreward, Prefaces, and Chapter 1.

TERM PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED, DUE DECEMBER 1.

September 15
MeSH continued.
MEDLINE continued.

READING: Greenhalgh Chapter 2.

ASSIGNMENT #2 DISTRIBUTED, DUE SEPTEMBER 23.

September 22
Assignment #2 due.
PubMed.

READING: NLM PubMed Fact Sheet.
Greenhalgh Chapter 3.

September 29
PubMed continued.

READING: Greenhalgh Chapter 4.

ASSIGNMENT #3 DISTRIBUTED, DUE OCTOBER 6.

October 6
Assignment #3 due.
EMTREE Thesaurus.
EMBASE.

READING: In the EMBASE User Manual, read the Introduction and Main EMBASE Data Elements section, look over the Country and Language Codes section, and review the Vendor Guide section for DIALOG. Also look over both volumes of the EMTREE Thesaurus.

Look over the DIALOG Blue Sheet for EMBASE.

ASSIGNMENT #4 DISTRIBUTED, DUE OCTOBER 13.

October 13
Assignment #4 due.
CINAHL.

READING: In the CINAHL Subject Heading List, read the Introduction and User Guide sections.

Greenhalgh Chapter 5.

MESH PRACTICE EXERCISE DISTRIBUTED, DUE OCTOBER 20.

October 20
MeSH practice exercise due.
Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms.
PsycINFO.


Look over the DIALOG Blue Sheet for PsycINFO.

Greenhalgh Chapters 6-7.
ASSIGNMENT #6 DISTRIBUTED, DUE OCTOBER 27.

October 27
Assignment #6 due.
Additional resources.
Beyond the basics of searching:
   Filtering,
   Analyzing,
   Evaluating.

READING:  Greenhalgh Chapters 8-9.

ASSIGNMENT #7 DISTRIBUTED, DUE NOVEMBER 3.

November 3
Assignment #7 due.
Searching continued.
Evidence based health care continued.

READING:  Greenhalgh Chapter 10-11.

ASSIGNMENT #8 DISTRIBUTED, DUE NOVEMBER 10.

November 10
Assignment #8 due.
Searching continued.
Evidence based health care continued.
Health Source: Consumer Edition
MedlinePLus

READING:  Greenhalgh Chapter 12.

November 17
Searching continued.
Evidence based health care continued.
Lexis-Nexis.

READING:  Greenhalgh Chapters 13-14.

November 24 -- NO CLASS
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

December 1
Term paper due.
Pulling it all together.

READING:  Greenhalgh Chapter 15
REFLECTION PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED, DUE DECEMBER 9.

December 8

Reflection paper due.
Student evaluations of course.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1 – Access Medicine Evaluation 5 Points
Assignment 2 – Medical Subject Headings 10 Points
Assignment 3 – Search Strategies and Execution 10 Points
Assignment 4 – Research Study Design 10 Points
Assignment 5 – Medical Subject Headings 10 Points
Assignment 6 – Search Strategies 10 Points
Assignment 7 – Search Strategies 5 Points
Assignment 8 – E-Health Resource 5 Points
Assignment 9 – Term Paper 20 Points
Assignment 10 – Reflection Paper 10 Points

Class Participation 5 Points