

LIS 690 SPECIAL TOPICS IN LIS: Government Information Resources

Semester: Summer 2017

Format: Online

Instructor: Cheryl Knott, PhD

Contact: cherylannknott@gmail.com

Student email will be answered within 48 hours.

Office hours: The instructor will be happy to consult with students via email, Skype, or phone. Please email me with course questions or concerns or to set up an appointment .

Technical Requirements for the Course: Please see UK Distance Learning Programs, [Technical Requirements and Recommendations](#).

To resolve technical complaints or to get help with technical issues, please contact the instructor first, then UK Information Technology Customer Service Center:

859-218-HELP or <http://www.uky.edu/UKIT>

Information on Distance Learning Library Services: <http://libraries.uky.edu/dlls>

Carla Cantagallo, DL Librarian

(859) 257-0500, ext. 2171

Email: dllservice@email.uky.edu

DL Interlibrary Loan Service: http://libraries.uky.edu/page.php?lweb_id=253

Course Description

The U.S. federal government is one of the largest publishers in the world and this course introduces students to the most useful indexes, search engines, and websites for text, numeric data, and images published by the government. Lectures, discussions, and readings will acquaint students with conceptual and practical knowledge for discovery and evaluation of government information resources. Assignments will give students opportunities to deepen their understanding through search exercises, evaluative reports, and the creation of subject guides.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to

- demonstrate familiarity with Web-based government information resources;
- compare freely available and fee-based services for accessing government information;
- discuss effective strategies for identifying and locating federal government information; and
- describe key government information resources related to at least one subject area.

Required Course Materials

Cassandra J. Hartnett, Andrea L. Severson, and Eric J. Forte, *Fundamentals of Government Information: Mining, Finding, Evaluating, and Using Government Resources*. ALA Neal-Schuman, 2016. ISBN: 9780838913956. \$85. Feel free to purchase a copy from your favorite online bookstore or from the publisher <https://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=11547> . Be sure you have the 2nd edition by the first full week of class. Students sometimes try to avoid purchasing textbooks, but this text is current and informative and will make a useful addition to

your own personal library. It will also be necessary for completing the course assignments. Additional required readings and video viewings will be available in the course space.

Assignments and Grading

All students begin the course with 100 points. At the end of the semester, those with 90-100 points will earn a course grade of A; those with 80-89 points will earn a B; and those with 70-79 points a C.

Assignments include: 3 problem sets (search exercises) worth 15 points each; a subject guide to government information resources on a topic of your choice worth 20 points and a report on your process of identifying and selecting items worth 15 points; and participation, 20 points. Participation involves engagement with the course, demonstrated by regularly logging in and by contributing insightful posts to the discussion boards. Completed assignments must be submitted to the dropbox in our online course space by the deadlines shown. Assignments will not be accepted via email. Late assignments will not be accepted, except in documented emergencies. Detailed assignment descriptions will be available in our course space.

Policies

Academic integrity

According to Senate Regulation 6.3.1: “All academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.” For specific information regarding the University’s code and regulations on plagiarism and cheating, visit:

<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/>

<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>

<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf> : “Plagiarism: What is it?”

Excused absences

Summarized from Senate Regulation 5.2.4.2: A student shall not be penalized for an excused absence. The following are defined as excused absences:

- Significant illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's household (permanent or campus) or immediate family.
- The death of a member of the student's household (permanent or campus) or immediate family.
- Trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an educational unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, including club sports registered with the university as well as varsity sports. Prior notification is required.
- Major religious holidays. Prior notification is required.
- Any other circumstances which the Instructor of Record finds reasonable cause for absence.

Students missing any graded work due to an excused absence bear the responsibility of informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required), and of making up the missed work. The Instructor of Record shall give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

Excused absences' effect on grading: Summarized from Senate Regulation 5.2.4.2: If attendance is required by the class policies elaborated in the syllabus or serves as a criterion for a grade in a course, and if a student has excused absences in excess of one-fifth of the class contact hours for that course, a student shall have the right to petition for a "W", and the Instructor of Record may require the student to petition for a "W" or take an "I" in the course. If a student has an excused absence on a day when a quiz is given, the instructor may not deny permission for a makeup exam and simply calculate the student's grade on the basis of the remaining requirements.

Academic accommodations due to disability

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, email address jkarnes@email.uky.edu) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

Incompletes

Because the instructor is a part-time adjunct for the summer only, no incompletes can be granted.

Class Schedule

Week 1 – Introduction to U.S. Government Information
Week 2 – The Legislative Branch and Statutory Law
 Problem Set #1 due June 22
Week 3 – The Executive Branch and Administrative Law
Week 4 – The Judiciary and Case Law
 Problem Set #2 due July 6
Week 5 – Statistical Information
Week 6 – Health, Science, and Technology Information
 Problem Set #3 due July 20
Week 7 – Historical and Archival Information
Week 8 – Review and Conclusion
 Subject Guide and Report due August 3