IRLS524-010 INFORMATION RESOURCES & SERVICES

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COURSE NAME, NUMBER AND PREREQUISITES:

IRLS 524-010 INFORMATION RESOURCES & SERVICES

[Prerequisite: IRLS 504 or consent of the instructor.]

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Howard Zogott, Instructor  
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Catalog description: Familiarizes students with theories, practices and issues of information services and evaluation of reference sources in libraries, information centers and other information-based settings.

Instructor’s Commentary: While the formats, tools and terminology of Reference and Information services have changed and continue to change, the one aspect of Reference and Information Services that has remained constant since the first librarian sat behind a desk is the role of the librarian or information professional as the intermediary between the person seeking information (or a good book to read) and the information (or Reader’s Advisory) he or she is seeking. In this course, with hard work, you will acquire the skills you need to be efficient and effective as an information intermediary. The course will cover best practices and techniques as well as the latest research and resources that will enable the student to become a successful twenty-first century information provider.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Successful completion of this course will help students achieve the A1, B5, and B6 competencies outlined at http://sirls.arizona.edu/about/studentCompetencies. More specifically, by the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Understand and describe the behavior of those seeking information and recognize user needs, spoken and unspoken, as they relate to Information services
2. Exhibit knowledge of specialized intermediation services such as information literacy instruction and reader advising
3. Understand and discuss the current and emerging issues in reference and information services
4. Identify range and types of reference tools
5. Identify and use specific information resources
6. Conceptualize and create a reference tool for a specific audience

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Supplementary Text: Sauers, Michael P. Searching 2.0. New York: Neal Schuman 2009. There will be numerous readings from the text. Purchase or see if it is available at a local Academic or public library.

There may be other required readings the first few weeks of the course.

Additional required readings will be available in the course space.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to log in 2-3 times a week, to read/view and understand all course material, to participate in discussions by posting concise and insightful observations and remarks; and by reading other students’ posts, and to complete the assignments at a high level of quality and on time. Students will complete assignments, report on significant issues, evaluate various information resources, and create a pathfinder on a specific topic. There may be a short quiz if necessary. Detailed assignment descriptions and the class schedule will be available in the course space.

COURSE, SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Code of Integrity

Students are expected to abide by The University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity. ‘The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student’s submitted work must be the student’s own.’ If you have any questions regarding what is acceptable practice under this Code, please ask an Instructor.

Accommodating Disabilities

The University has a Disability Resource Center. If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Disability Resource Center and request that the DRC send me, the Instructor, official notification of your accommodation needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Assignment Policies

The current Catalog reads:

The grade of I may be awarded only at the end of a term, when all but a minor portion of the course work has been satisfactorily completed. The grade of I is not to be awarded in place of a failing grade or when the student is expected to repeat the course; in such a case, a grade other than I must be assigned. Students should make arrangements with the instructor to receive an incomplete grade before the end of the term ...

If the incomplete is not removed by the instructor within one year the I grade will revert to a failing grade.

GRADING:

The final course grade will be based on:

Participation: 15 points
Written assignments/Pathfinder: 35 points

Discussion: 15 points

Final Assignment: 35 points

At the end of the semester, final course grades will be assigned according to points:

A   100-90 points
B   89-80 points
C   79-70 points
D   69-60 points
F   59 points and below

INSTRUCTOR NAME AND CONTACT ADDRESSES:

Howard Zogott is the recently retired Director of the Cranbury Public Library in Cranbury, New Jersey. He worked in public libraries for 37 years. He is looking forward to the give and take of this course and hopes to learn much from the students in the course.

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