

HNRS 298-03, -04, -05

RESEARCH & EXHIBITION

<http://myweb.lmu.edu/dondi/spring2014/bnrs298>

Spring 2014—University Hall 4442 (03, 04)/St. Robert's 239 (05)
MT 4:30–5:20pm (04, 05), W 2–2:50pm (03), 1 semester hour
Office Hours: TR 9–11am, or by appointment

John David N. Dionisio, PhD
e-mail: dondi@lmu.edu
Doolan 106; (310) 338-5782

Objectives and Outcomes

This course introduces you to academic research and creative work. Long after you finish this course, my hope is that you will be able to:

1. Know how to find, manage, and process information sources for a selected topic.

- Find information in libraries and the Internet
- Use tools to manage information sources
- Read sources critically for points of interest and unresolved issues
- Document and record these sources

2. Formulate a research or creative question grounded in current literature, along with a project for investigating this question.

- List concrete steps or actions for investigation
- Identify an appropriate mentor

3. Write and present a proposal for investigating a research or creative question.

- Identify and share relevant background information to a general audience
- State the motivation for the question (i.e., why bother?) for a general audience
- State what will be done in the investigation
- Identify and specify necessary resources
- Describe expected results

Prerequisites/Prior Background

This course is meant to be a “companion” to a concurrent or prior course of your choosing, preferably in your major and most definitely in an area of interest.

Materials and Texts

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*, 3rd Edition, University of Chicago Press, 2008. (*recommended but not required*)

Course Work and Grading

Your grade will be determined by the following deliverables. Your final grade will be based on the percentage of the points you get for these deliverables against the total number of possible points.

Startup bibliography	20 points
Mentor introduction	20
Search journal	20
Annotated bibliography	100
Elevator story	20
Proposal draft	60
Presentation draft	60
Bibliography addendum	20
Final proposal	100
Final presentation	100
Total	520 points

Percentages $\geq 90\%$ get an A– or better; $\geq 80\%$ get a B– or better; $\geq 70\%$ get a C– or better. I may nudge grades upward based on qualitative considerations such as degree of difficulty, effort, class participation, time constraints, and overall attitude throughout the course.

This course is about a general *process* whose content is highly individualized, with disciplines in which I do not have expertise. Thus, grading focuses on your ability to follow this process and meet its requirements; deeper content assessment is the purview of your research mentor/advisor:

- *Compliance*—Did you follow the instructions?
- *Completeness*—Did you supply all of the requested information or artifacts?
- *Punctuality*—Did you submit the work on time?
- *Polish*—How well-executed is the deliverable?

In general, points are distributed evenly among these criteria. You will be told if an assignment differs from these standards in terms of criteria or distribution. Deliverables have a “due week” and are due at the beginning of that week’s class; consult the projected schedule for specific dates.

Workload Expectations

In line with LMU's *Credit Hour Policy*, the workload expectation for this course is that for every one (1) hour of classroom instruction (50 scheduled minutes), you will complete at least two (2) hours of out-of-class work each week. This is a 1-unit course with 1 hour of instruction per week, so you are expected to complete $1 \times 2 = 2$ hours of weekly work outside of class.

Attendance

Attendance at all designated meetings is "at your own risk." If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to keep up with the course. The last day to add or drop a class without a grade of W is January 17. Because this is an Honors core course, it cannot be taken for Credit/No Credit grading.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty will be treated as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that can range from receiving no credit to expulsion. It is never permissible to turn in work that has been copied from another student or copied from a

source (including the Internet) without properly acknowledging the source. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the *LMU Honor Code and Process*.

Special Accommodations

Students with special needs who require reasonable modifications or special assistance in this course should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office. Any student who currently has a documented disability (ADHD, autism spectrum, learning, physical, or psychiatric) needing academic accommodations should contact DSS (Daum 224, x84216) as early in the semester as possible. All requests and discussions will remain confidential. Please visit <http://www.lmu.edu/dss> for additional information.

Tentative Nature of the Syllabus

If necessary, this syllabus and its contents are subject to revision; students are responsible for any changes or modifications distributed in class or posted to the course web site.

Projected Schedule and Important Dates

Week of...	Topic/Activity	Deliverable
January 13	Introduction to the course; the research process	
20	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no formal class for all sections)</i>	
27	How to search; evaluating sources	Startup bibliography; mentor introduction
February 3	Search experience breakouts	
10	Introduction to annotated bibliographies	Search journal
17	Annotated bibliography "office hours"	
24	Introduction to proposals	Annotated bibliography
March 3	<i>Spring break (no classes, no office hours)</i>	
10	Elevator story and proposal breakouts	Elevator story
17	Proposal draft "office hours"	Proposal draft
24	Introduction to presentations	
31	<i>Cesar Chavez Day (no formal class for all sections)</i>	
April 7	Proposal and presentation "office hours"	Presentation draft; bibliography addendum
14	<i>Easter break April 16–18 (no formal class for all sections)</i>	
21	Proposal and presentation practice	
28	Proposal and presentation practice	
May 5	<i>Project fair (on designated final exam slot)</i>	Final proposal; final presentation