

COURSE OUTLINE

DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE

Library Studies	LS	121
Subject	Subject Code	Course Number
Information Competency and Research Skills		1
Course Title		Units
1601	November 4, 2003	
TOP Code*	Date Submitted/Revised	

Degree applicable credit course

Non-degree applicable credit course

Full term

Short term Total weeks _____ Total Hours _____

.5 Hours of lecture per week

_____ Hours of rehearsal per week

1.5 Hours of lab per week

_____ Hours by arrangement per week

1 Hours of independent work per week done outside of class time, e.g., homework

35 Contractual maximum enrollment

GRADE CODE:

Letter grade only

Credit/No Credit only

Student Choice

DISCIPLINE(S) UNDER WHICH COURSE SHOULD BE LISTED: Library Science and Library Technology

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: Eligibility for English 122 or equivalent

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The course teaches the research strategies and skills for successfully finding, retrieving, evaluating and using information in various formats. It combines library skills, research methods, and information technology literacy. Coursework includes the ethical and legal aspects of information use and the critical thinking skills necessary for effective college research.

Number of times course may be taken for credit. 1

Library (LS)	121
Department	Course Number

I. OBJECTIVES:

- A.** Upon successful completion of required coursework, students will be able to:
1. Describe the fundamentals of how information is organized and published.
 2. Interpret a research need, determine the type and scope of information needed, and design effective research strategies.
 3. Employ a variety of information tools to locate and retrieve relevant information in print and electronic formats.
 4. Select, evaluate and synthesize relevant information.
 5. Discuss the ethical and legal issues of information use.
 6. Compose bibliographic citations for a variety of material.
 7. Utilize information technology to access and retrieve resources in various formats.

II. CONTENT:

- A.** Formats and organization of information
1. Information in the modern world
 2. Publishing cycle
 3. Library of Congress and other systems of organization
 4. Types of information (factual, analytical, subjective, objective, primary, secondary)
- B.** Research strategy
1. Determining a research need
 2. Formulating research questions
 3. Understanding key concepts, keywords and controlled vocabulary
 4. Developing effective research strategies
 5. Choosing appropriate research tools and sources
- C.** Information seeking strategies
1. Information formats
 2. Online tools (library catalogs; periodical databases; Internet and other information technologies)
 3. Locating sources (print and electronic formats of books, periodicals, reference materials, and other media)
 4. Techniques for online information searching
 - a. Database fields
 - b. Boolean logic
 - c. Truncation and other search functions

D. Evaluating information sources

1. Scholarly and general sources
2. Evaluation criteria
3. Bias

E. Legal and ethical aspects of information use

1. Copyright and fair use
2. Citing sources
3. Plagiarism

III. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

1. Lecture
2. Class discussion
3. Demonstration
4. Hands-on exercises
5. Distance Education
6. Lab assignments

IV. EVALUATION:**A. Methods:**

1. If you get 128,447 hits when you use your search term in a search engine on the Web, you've found the mother lode of information on your topic and you don't have to look anywhere else. Describe your reaction to this statement.
2. Consider the topic, "the role of pesticides in environmental changes." List the key concepts presented in this topic and at least two synonyms for each concept.

B. Frequency of Evaluation:

1. **For full-term classes, evaluations will adhere to the DVC "Fairness in Grading" guidelines and will include as a minimum:**
 - Evaluation of students within the first quarter of the course and notifying students of the results;
 - Counting a final examination for no more than one-half the course grade; and
 - Basing final grades on at least 3 students tests and/or reports

Library (LS)	121
Department	Course Number

V. REQUIRED MATERIALS:**A. Examples of typical college-level textbooks or other print materials:**

1. List, Carla J. Information Research. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt, 2002.
2. Riedling, Ann M. Learning to Learn: A guide to becoming information literate. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2002.

B. Other materials and/or supplies required of students:**VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:****A. Reading:**

1. Read the section on "Information Characteristics" and be prepared to describe and compare two different characteristics presented.
2. Read the chapter on evaluating and citing information sources and be prepared to discuss the major criterion used to evaluate an information source.

B. Writing, problem solving or performance:

1. Select a topic from the list provided. Using the steps in research presented in class, select and arrange them into a research search strategy for the topic chosen.
2. Choose a research topic, select five sources from at least three types or formats of information, and compile an annotated bibliography using the MLA format.

Date approved by Instruction Committee _____

Date approved by Vice President of Academic Affairs _____