

GLIS 704
Research Design in Information Studies
Wednesday 9h00-12h00
3661 Peel, Room 106
Prof. France Bouthillier

1. Course Description:

This course will prepare students to design research projects in general and to construct their thesis proposal in particular. The goal is to give opportunities to students to explore ways to operationalize key concepts in Information Studies, to identify critical steps in data collection and data analysis, and to write and communicate effectively scholarly content.

2. Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will

- Understand principles of scientific and scholarly writing;
- Understand and apply principles of critical thinking;
- Gain experience in assessing and writing scholarly content (book review, conference abstract, journal article, research grant proposal, fellowship application, and literature review)
- Gain knowledge about the structure of research proposals and dissertations and the role of argumentation.

3. Method:

Seminar approach, discussions, critical analyses, guest speakers.

4. Readings

Strongly Recommended Texts:

Crews-Anderson. Timothy. 2007. *Humanities Insights: Critical Thinking and Informal Logic*. Penrith, GBR: Humanities E-Books, LLP. (ebook available at McGill Library)

Murray, Rowena. 2006. *How to Write a Thesis*. 2nd ed. Maidenhead: Open University Press. (ebook available at McGill Library)

Murray, Rowena. 2005. *Writing for Academic Journals*. NY: Open University Press. (ebook available at McGill Library)

Aveyard, Helen. 2007. *Doing a Literature Review in Health and Social Care*. Buckingham, UK: Open University Press. (ebook available at McGill Library)

Lyons Peter & Howard J. Doueck. 2010. *The Dissertation: From Beginning to End*. NY: Oxford University Press. (ebook available at McGill Library)

5. Evaluation:

Assignments	Due Dates	% of Grade	Length
A- Writing a Book Review (individual)	January 21	10%	2 pages
B - Systematic Review of three Conference Abstracts (individual)	February 11	15%	3 pages
C – Systematic Review of two Research Papers (in team of 2)	March 9 (Monday)	30%	6 pages
D - Writing of Scientific Paper or Literature Review or Fellowship Application (individual)	March 25	30%	To discuss
E - Participation in Class	N/A	15%	N/A

6. Course Outline:

The course is designed around three broad questions:

1. What do experts say about research design and scholarly writing?
2. What are the good and bad practices of research design and scholarly writing?
3. What can be improved in my own research design and scholarly writing?