

**University of Pittsburgh
School of Information Science**

Alexis Smith Macklin, PhD
amacklin@pitt.edu
412-606-3577

M□6:00 - 9:15P□
LANG A202

Course Description:

LIS 2110 ACTION RESEARCH METHODS AND APPLICATIONS □Design, analysis, and evaluation of action research; application of research models to practical problems in libraries and other information centers. Community analysis, grant writing, and evaluation of library services.

Course Objectives

- To help students understand the research process
- To provide students with an opportunity to study and improve their practice through an action research project
- To help students learn the importance of collaboration when examining practice
- To show students how research on the improvement of one's own practice can have a transformative effect on organizational change and implementation of best practice
- To show students how to translate the research process into grant writing and evaluation guidelines

Required Text:

Coghlan, D., & Brannick, T. (2005). *Doing Action Research in Your Own Organization*. London: Sage Publications.

Additional supplemental readings will be assigned throughout the semester and will be handed out in class or sent via email to students.

Course Requirements:

In order to guide your research, each student must keep a daily record of his or her responses, ideas, questions, and reflections about her or his practice. This journal will serve as a primary source of data for each action research project, a running record and commentary between you and other colleagues, and your sense-making of these exchanges.

Time will be built into each class session for students to share their entries with their peers and to engage in dialog about each student's ongoing questions regarding his or her practice. Attendance and participation in these weekly conversations, along with the keeping of a journal, will comprise 10% of your final grade.

In addition to course participation (10%), your course grade will be evaluated on the basis of your successful completion of the following core assignments:

1. Research question and justification
2. Literature review
3. Research proposal (includes revised description/rationale of research question and literature)
4. Final action research proposal – this paper is a culmination of assignments and comprises 65% of your final grade.
5. Presentation – 25% of final grade

Point Distribution for Grades:

A = 100 – 90; B = 89 – 80; C = 79 – 70

Please note that assignments and the rubric for evaluation are subject to change or modification, as determined by the instructor based on assessment of the needs of the students.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
5/11	Understanding AR	Ch. 1 – 3; Coghlan & Brannick	Exercise A, p. 42
5/18	Issues and Challenges	Ch. 4 – 6; C&B	Journal entry Exercise 6.1; 6.2, pp. 79-81
5/25	Holiday – no class		
6/1	Framing and selecting your project	Ch. 7; C&B	Journal entry Exercise 7.1, p. 89
6/8	TBA		
6/15	Introduction to data collection	Ch. 8, 9, & 10; C&B	Journal entry Exercise 8.1, pp. 106-107 Research question
6/22	Literature review/ Data collection/analysis		Journal entry Literature review
6/29	Data collection/analysis		Journal entry Revised research question
7/6	Instructor will meet with students to discuss progress		Journal entry Draft of AR proposal
7/13	Write up action research proposal		
7/20	Peer review		
7/27	Presentation		

