

**LIS 2971: Engineering & Physical Sciences**  
**4 week, 1 credit course : June 14 - July 5, 2012**

Information resources and services in science and technology including primary and secondary publications; hardcopy & electronic databases (includes image and numeric); user needs and communication patterns within the scientific community.

**COURSE INSTRUCTORS / CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION / SUMMARY**

An introduction to information resources and services for engineering, computer science, mathematics, physics, astronomy & geology. Resources covered will include those found and utilized in academic, public, and/or special libraries, but will skew toward the academic due to the instructors' primary experience.

Goals of this course are to:

- Expose you to various scientific disciplines and provide a basic understanding of scientific & technical literature and users
- Experience 'hands on' use of core print and electronic reference & research tools in the sciences
- Cultivate practical skills for providing reference services and conducting research
- Introduce you to developments and trends within science & technology libraries / librarianship.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS**

Class sessions will be videotaped on Thursday evenings from 6 - 9 pm. Videotapes will be posted by Thursday night and/or Friday morning, depending on when the link is received from the SIS IT department.

**Course Web:**

Blackboard's Course Web is the primary course tool for this class and you will be required to keep a stable Internet connection to keep up with all relevant course materials and activities. Students should

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be aware that Course Web keeps records of the dates and times they use various sections of the class page. Please see the COURSE WEB STRUCTURE section at the very end of this syllabus for details on how to utilize this tool for this course.

**Communication:**

This course will be taught **asynchronously**

The Discussion Board (DB) area of Course Web will be set up to support separate course related discussion and/or assignment threads. All will participate in each of these asynchronous discussions. All students and instructors will take part in discussions with respect and professionalism. Participation in all discussion boards is a course requirement.

As with any course, homework is an asynchronous activity.

Neither the instructors - nor the students - should expect immediate replies to email or voicemail messages; appropriate response time is considered to be within 24 hours.

Please be aware that postings and discussions in Course Web will be seen by all students in this course. Any questions or concerns that should not be made public should go through other media. However, many questions (for instance, questions about assignment expectations) that may be of use to other students should be posted there for everyone's benefit.

If several students have directly emailed similar concerns to the Instructors...we may try to address that concern with one email to the entire class in Announcement Area of Course Web.

**> Introductions Discussion Board:**

Since this is a short, 4 week online-only course - please take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other and to the instructors in the introduction space.

**> Course Q&A Discussion Board:**

This is for students to ask each other questions regarding the course in general. Often, simple problems can be resolved by utilizing this mechanism. Professionals constantly interact and collaborate with each other online. This is one place where each student can share the expertise or experience they have with the rest of the class.

**Work Levels:**

Graduate-level courses require that you to spend at least 9 hours (outside of class time) a week on course related work (reading, writing & assignments); 3 hours outside for ever 1 hour of class time.

Students are expected to do all of their graded work independently (unless instructed to do otherwise) and, in general, to engage in ethical behavior regarding academic work.

Please make an effort to keep up with readings and work, take advantage of the communication mechanisms and other tools built into Course Web.

As this course progresses, it is possible that the syllabus may change slightly to accommodate unforeseen issues. Any changes will be announced immediately in the “Announcements” section of Course Web with accompanying email notification.

Previous library experience or background study in the sciences is not assumed, although such experience and expertise does contribute to the practical and theoretical understanding of the course content.

Experiencing technology problems at some time during the semester is likely inevitable; files can be accidentally erased, hard drives can crash, Internet providers may go down and power failures may happen. You are responsible for maintaining back-up copies of your work and should plan for web access through multiple Internet connections.

*To do well in this course, you should*

- *Demonstrate concern for learning*
- *Be well prepared and well organized*
- *Communicate clearly and regularly*
- *Display interest in the subject material*
- *Engage your fellow students in the learning process*
- *Utilize the instructor's time effectively*
- *Use feedback provided by the instructor(s) to improve performance*
- *Meet deadlines*
- *Attend class in a regular and timely manner by participating in viewing Panopto (lectures), discussion board, and chats*

## COURSE READINGS

### Readings:

Instead of a textbook, required reading will consist of selected readings for online discussion(s). Readings relevant to a class session will be posted for that week and a reflective posting will be due the following week.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Assignments should be submitted using the Assignment Folder in Course Web. Please use MS Word for your assignments. Be sure to include the assignment name and your (full) name at the top of 1<sup>st</sup> page of your document. PLEASE FOLLOW THE FILE NAMING CONVENTION AS INSTRUCTED BELOW.

For Example: Assignment 1 for John Dana should be = **DanaJAssign1.doc**

Online postings/discussion comprise **20 % of your final grade**

Reference question & Citation assignments comprise **80 % of your final grade**

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|--|-------------------------------|
| - <b>3 Reference Quest Assignments, 20 points each</b>       | <b>60 points total</b>        |
| - <b>1 Citation Searching Assignment</b>                     | <b>20 points</b>              |
| - <b><u>4 Reading summary/discussions, 5 points each</u></b> | <b><u>20 points total</u></b> |

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**Grading Scale:**

A	97 - 100
A-	90 - 96
B+	88 - 89
B	84 - 87
B-	80 - 83
C+	78 - 79
C	74 - 77
C-	70 - 73

**COURSE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

Reference Question Assignment 1 = 20 points

Reading Posting 1 = 5 points

**DUE: Friday - June 22, 2012, by 11:59PM EDT**

Reference Question Assignment 2 = 20 points

Reading Posting 2 = 5 points

**DUE: Friday - June 29, 2012, by 11:59PM EDT**

Reference Question Assignment 3 = 20 points

Reading Posting 3 = 5 points

**DUE: Friday - July 6, 2012, by 11:59PM EDT**

Citation Searching/Analysis Assignment 4 = 20 points

Reading Posting 4 = 5 points

**Due: Friday - July 13, 2012, by 11:59PM EDT**

**SIS & UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH POLICIES**

**Grading:**

Assignments are due as indicated under COURSE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE above. It is your responsibility to retain a copy of your assignment(s) and verify through the online gradebook that any assignment has been received and graded. Late assignments will not receive full credit. In order to receive a final grade for this course, ALL assignments must be submitted by July 13, 2012 - after that date, students with missing assignments will receive an incomplete grade, aka 'G grade', for the semester.

[LIS Grading Policy](#)

[University of Pittsburgh Grading Scale](#)

**Academic Integrity:**

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of

the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

**Disabilities:**

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you need to notify both the instructor and the [Disability Resources and Services](#) no later than the 2nd week of the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call 648-7890 (Voice or TTD) to schedule an appointment. The Office is located in 216 William Pitt Union.

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<b>COURSE CALENDAR: LECTURE TOPICS / DATES</b>
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**Week 1 - Thursday: June 14, 2012**

Overview of Course and Syllabus & Introduction to Science & Technology Literature  
Foundations: Mathematics & Physics

**Week 2 - Thursday: June 21, 2012**

Building Blocks: Engineering & Computer Science; including *Biomedical, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Environmental, Materials, Mechanical, Organizational, Software & Systems Engineering, Information Science, and Telecommunications*

**Week 3 - Thursday: June 28, 2012**

Earth & Sky: Geology & Astronomy

**Week 4 - Thursday: July 5, 2012**

Citation Searching/Analysis  
Keeping current: resources "about science" (science education, news, history)  
Trends/New Models of Service: outreach & scholarly communication in science libraries: data management, open access, repositories, embedded librarians.