Research Methods Syllabus – Fall 2019

GT2801

Instructors of Record: Marlee Givens and Karen Viars, Librarians
Office: Georgia Tech Library
Office Hours: By appointment only
Email: marlee.givens@library.gatech.edu, karen.viars@library.gatech.edu

Description: This course provides an overview of research methods primarily for the liberal arts. Students will learn how to search effectively for reliable, quality information, in a variety of sources and formats, using a variety of methods, as well as how to compile, annotate and cite their references. Students will apply this information toward their own research, writing and projects. The course gives students the opportunity to work with a collaborative team of librarians who support the School of Literature, Media, and Communication (LMC) and the School of Modern Languages (ML), and it will feature guest speakers from the library.

Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of Research Methods, you will:
1. Find primary and secondary sources in order to conduct research on a topic of your choosing
2. Investigate methods for sharing and communicating research
3. Gain familiarity with annotated bibliographies, literature reviews and communication plans

Weekly Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of Research Methods, you will:
1. Develop information seeking behaviors appropriate for academic research
2. Expand knowledge of additional information sources in a variety of media
3. Gain familiarity with information sources for social sciences and humanities
4. Investigate issues in scholarly communication and data visualization
5. Develop a plan for communicating your research

Course Schedule: Research Methods is organized into five themed weeks covering content whose exploration will benefit students at Georgia Tech. Group discussions, online modules, and workshops will be centered on these major themes:

Week	Dates	Theme
Week 1	Oct 28-Nov 1	Information seeking and sources
Week 2	Nov 4-8	Multimodal information sources
Week 3	Nov 11-15	Social sciences and digital humanities
Week 4	Nov 18-22	Scholarly communication and data visualization
Week 5	Nov 25-Dec 3	Communicating your research

Curricular Theme Descriptions:
1. Information seeking and sources: You will be introduced to a number of the Georgia Tech Library's resources and methods of finding information.
2. Multimodal information sources: Moving beyond traditional research options, we will explore multimodal and other resources, such a softwares and the Georgia Tech Archives.
3. Social sciences and digital humanities: We will learn about public policy, statistical literacy, and digital humanities resources.

4. <u>Scholarly communication and data visualization</u>: This week focuses on how the scholarly publication process works, as well as research data management and data visualization.
5. <u>Communicating your research</u>: Develop a research plan to share your work.

Registration Information:
(information related to course sections will be listed here)

Textbook: No course textbook

Grading: This class is evaluated on a pass/fail grading mode. Points are awarded based on attendance at group meetings, participating in program workshops, completing online course material, and completing deliverables. Points are awarded as follows:

      150 points – attendance at a **class meeting** 1200pts possible
      100 points – completing a **reflection** 500 points expected
      100 points – completion of a **course deliverable** <u>500 points possible</u>
                                        2200 points possible

      Reflections allow you to consider what you're learning each week and how you will apply it.
      Course deliverables will put into practice the skills you develop during the program. Examples will include your research communication plan.
      Class meetings will put you face-to-face with the other researchers and allow you to share ideas and successful strategies. They will also expose you to subject-matter experts from the Library that you'll want to get to know. They'll help you solve challenges, develop your professional skills, and improve your research skills.

A student will pass Research Methods if their point total at the end of the program is greater than or equal to 1350 points, **AND** they accumulate points in all of the categories listed above.

Course Deliverables:
1. <u>Reflections</u> – What do you want to learn about research? How is what we're covering in class helping you become a better researcher? This will be a brief reflection essay/list completed weekly.
2. <u>Research Communication Plan</u> – A detailed plan of how you will share your research in both public (e.g. a newspaper or website) and scholarly (e.g. a peer-reviewed journal) ways during and after your time at Georgia Tech. This is the final evaluation for the class, and will show an understanding of the concepts and ideas shared by experts during the five weeks.

Academic Honor Code: http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code
"Having read the Georgia Institute of Technology Academic Honor code, I understand and accept my responsibility as a member of the Georgia Tech community to uphold the Honor Code at all times. In addition, I understand my options for reporting honor violations as detailed in the code."

Institute Attendance Policy: http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/
Research Methods is most beneficial to students when they attend scheduled group meetings and program activities. As such, attendance is significant a graded component of the program and will count towards the pass/fail course grade.

Diversity and Disability Statement:
Georgia Tech values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and

welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services to discuss options of removing barriers in this course, including accommodations. ODS can be reached at 404.894.2563, dsinfo@gatech.edu, or disabilityservices.gatech.edu.