

**NGLI 1101**  
**Research in the Digital Age**  
**Spring 2018**

**Location:** Online

**Instructor:** Tyler Manolovitz

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**Office Hours:** 10-7 Monday – Thursday and 8-5 Friday

(You are welcome to stop by anytime, but please note these times are not set in stone. To ensure a face-to-face meeting, please contact me in advance to set up an appointment)

**Course Description: Research in the Digital Age**

New researchers are often overwhelmed by the sheer amount of information available on the Internet. This course teaches students to efficiently search online academic, popular, and professional resources and evaluate their credibility. The life-long skills learned from this class will prepare students to be more effective researchers.

**Objectives:**

1. Students completing the course will be able to show evidence that they can select relevant and academically credible sources to support a research question and thesis.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how to identify sources of academic, popular, and professional research and their relative strengths and weaknesses.
3. Prove that they understand how to navigate search engines, article databases, and library catalogs to search for relevant sources.
4. Summarize, interpret, and analyze sources as part of an annotated bibliography.
5. Evaluate the effectiveness and reliability of images as visual communications.

**There is no required textbook.**

**Contacting the instructor:** Feel free to call during business hours or e-mail me anytime. I ensure a turnaround time of no more than 24 hours Monday-Friday, but I typically respond pretty quickly. On weekends I will respond as much as possible, but cannot guarantee response until Monday.

When leaving a message or sending an email, please be courteous and clear in your communication. Make sure to provide your name and the best means of responding to your question.

**Read the syllabus for the answer to your question before asking.**

**Late submissions will be accepted, but with a 10% per day penalty (so after 10 days, late assignments will receive zero points). Extenuating circumstances can be taken into account, but please be sure to maintain communication.**

**In case of computer or internet failure,** please use a Starbucks, a friend or family member's home, public library, or other similar solution. Plan ahead and do not procrastinate. **You are responsible for getting the material turned in by the due date.** Technology failure is not considered an extenuating circumstance.

### **SHSU Online Troubleshooting:**

If you can't access SHSU Online or the content for some reason or things are acting "wonky," please contact the SHSU Online Support Desk.



### **Weekly Procedure:**

This class is organized into weekly modules with each new week beginning on Saturday and ending on Friday (**all assignments for each week will be due Fridays at 11:59pm**). It is **your** responsibility to finish each week's activities on time. It is ideal, and in your best interest, to complete assignments and quizzes as soon as possible in case of a zombie apocalypse, erupting super volcano, or other emergencies.

In Blackboard you will find a link titled "Weekly Modules" that includes folders for each week of the class. Each week's folder contains all the materials for that week (readings, videos, quizzes, assignments, etc.). If you have questions, or are confused about the information provided, please ask!

I will use your SHSU e-mail address for communication purposes, so make sure to check that account regularly (or set up e-mail forwarding to another account you do check regularly -- [http://www.shsu.edu/dept/it@sam/technology-tutorials/email/forward\\_email.html](http://www.shsu.edu/dept/it@sam/technology-tutorials/email/forward_email.html)).

### **Getting Started:**

To start, go to **Welcome, Start Here!** on Blackboard (you can find Blackboard under Campus Tools on the [SHSU Homepage](#)). All assignments will be due by 11:59pm on Friday of the corresponding week. Specific due dates are listed below.

|            |  |             |
|------------|--|-------------|
| <b>1.</b>  | Introductions, Assessments, and More                       | 1/17 – 1/19 |
| <b>2.</b>  | Pre-Research   | 1/20 – 1/26 |
| <b>3.</b>  | Research Questions   | 1/27 – 2/2  |
| <b>4.</b>  | Comparing Academic, Popular, and Professional Resources    | 2/3 – 2/9   |
| <b>5.</b>  | Search Strategies for Popular Resources                    | 2/10 – 2/16 |
| <b>6.</b>  | Analyzing and Evaluating Popular Resources                 | 2/17 – 2/23 |
| <b>7.</b>  | Search Strategies for Academic and Professional Resources  | 2/24 – 3/2  |
| <b>8.</b>  | Analyzing and Evaluating Academic and Professional Sources | 3/3 – 3/9   |
|            | SPRING BREAK   | 3/10 – 3/16 |
| <b>9.</b>  | Searching for Books: Print and E-Books                     | 3/17 – 3/23 |
| <b>10.</b> | Primary vs. Secondary Resources                            | 3/24 – 3/30 |
| <b>11.</b> | Copyright & Plagiarism                                     | 3/31 – 4/6  |
| <b>12.</b> | Government Documents                                       | 4/7 – 4/13  |
| <b>13.</b> | Searching for Visual information                           | 4/14 – 4/20 |
| <b>14.</b> | Obstacles to the Research Process                          | 4/21 – 4/27 |
| <b>15.</b> | Self-Reflection and Post-Test                              | 4/28 – 5/4  |

### About Grades:

Your grades are available on Blackboard under Course Content in My Grades. Anything that is not automatically calculated and posted will be graded and posted as soon as possible.

There are a possible 400 points. See a breakdown below.

| Assignment Title  | Points | Date Due |
|---|--------|----------|
| Week 1: Assignment: Introductions                               | 10     | 1/19     |
| Week 1: Pre-Test  | 20     |          |
| Week 2: Assignment: Pre-Research Brainstorming                  | 20     | 1/26     |
| Week 3: Quiz: Forming Good Research Questions                   | 10     | 2/2      |
| Week 3: Assignment: Develop Research Questions and Keywords     | 30     |          |
| Week 4: Quiz: Match the Title to the Publication Type           | 20     | 2/9      |
| Week 4: Assignment: Locate Scholarly and Professional Resources | 20     |          |
| Week 5: Assignment: Google Searching                            | 20     | 2/16     |
| Week 6: Quiz: Evaluating Websites                               | 30     | 2/23     |
| Week 7: Quiz: Matching Pieces                                   | 10     | 3/2      |
| Week 7: Assignment: Find Full Text Articles                     | 20     |          |
| Week 8: Assignment: Identifying Peer-Review                     | 15     | 3/9      |
| Week 8: Quiz: Peer-review                                       | 20     |          |
| Week 9: Assignment: Find Books and Ebooks                       | 20     | 3/23     |
| Week 10: Quiz: Primary and Secondary Sources                    | 20     | 3/30     |
| Week 11: Quiz: Respecting Copyright                             | 10     | 4/6      |
| Week 12: Assignment: Finding a Government Document              | 10     | 4/13     |
| Week 13: Assignment: Find a Visual Source                       | 15     | 4/20     |
| Week 14: Assignment: Research Obstacles                         | 10     | 4/27     |
| Week 15: Assignment: Self-Reflection                            | 10     | 5/4      |
| Week 15: Post-Test  | 60     |          |
| Total   | 400    |          |

**Academic Dishonesty:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [Dean of Student's Office](#)

**Students with Disabilities Policy:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

**Rules of Conduct:**

We are an online classroom but etiquette is still required, which means: No rude, lewd, or crude posts of any sort—text or image—nor links to inappropriate websites. No offensive behavior will be tolerated. Those who choose not to follow these rules of conduct will be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

**Additional Information:** All information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes in grading, assignments, due dates, or other information will be announced via class announcements and/or email.