

NGLI 1101
Research in the Digital Age
Spring 2018

Location: Online

Instructor: Zach Valdes

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Office Hours: By appointment only

Course Description: Research in the Digital Age

This course provides students with key strategies to efficiently search online academic, popular, and professional resources and evaluate their credibility. The skills learned from this class will help prepare students to be faster and more effective researchers for every academic class.

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. Demonstrate an understanding of 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: All communication must be done through SHSU Online in the Virtual Office. **I will answer within 24 hours Monday-Friday.**

You may email me if

- There is a personal matter you need to discuss.

- When e-mailing the instructor, please use proper formatting: Include a greeting and please use whole sentences aiming for correct grammar and spelling. At the end of the e-mail, please sign off properly and include your first and last name.

You may also call if

- There is a personal, private matter that needs my attention.
- If you leave a message, please make sure to speak clearly and leave your first and last name, the class you are in, and a way to get in touch with you either by phone or email.

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

Late submissions will not be accepted. No exceptions made.

In case of computer or internet failure, please use an internet café, a friend's or family member's computer, public library or other nearby place that offers access. Plan ahead. **You are responsible for getting the material turned in by the due date.**

SHSU Online Troubleshooting:

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



Weekly Procedure:

You are responsible for reading/watching the materials, posting questions to the instructor's Virtual Office, and completing assignments, tests, and quizzes by the due dates. It is ideal to get assignments and quizzes done as soon as possible.

Each week's folder contains all the materials for that week. If you have questions or are confused about the information provided—you don't understand the assignment, are confused on a particular point discussed in a video, etc.—please post your question in the Virtual Office. Other students will benefit from your willingness to ask questions that they may also have.

Getting Started:

Go to Welcome, Start Here! on SHSU Online. You must take the Syllabus Quiz. In order to start with Week 1, you **must** pass the quiz. You may take this quiz as many times as necessary to pass. All due dates are listed below.

Week	Activities	Due by 11:59PM on Friday
1.	Introductions & Assessments	January 19
2.	Pre-Research	January 26
3.	Forming a Research Question	February 2
4.	Comparing Academic, Popular, and Professional Resources	February 9
5.	Search Strategies for Popular Resources	February 16
6.	Analyzing and Evaluating Popular Resources	February 23
7.	Primary Vs. Secondary Resources	March 2
8.	Search Strategies for Academic and Professional Resources	March 9
9.	Spring Break Holiday – No Assignment	March 16
10.	Analyzing and Evaluating Academic and Professional Sources	March 23
11.	Learning About Copyright & Plagiarism	March 30
12.	Searching for Books: Print and E-Books	April 6
13.	Searching for Electronic Government Documents	April 13
14.	Searching for Visual Information	April 20
15.	Obstacles to the Research Process	April 27
16.	Self-Reflection & Final	May 10 ^{*1}
^{*1} Final Exam		

About Grades:

Your grades are available on SHSU Online 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 200 points which you can earn to receive an A. See the list of points below.

Start Here/Week 1: Syllabus Quiz	5
Week 1: Introduction & Pre-Assessment	10
Week 2: Brainstorming Assignment	10
Week 3: Quiz: Forming Good Research Questions	10
Week 4: Quiz: Match the Title to the Publication Type	10
Week 5: Google Search Assignment	10
Week 6: Quiz: Evaluating Websites	10
Week 7: Quiz: Primary and Secondary Sources	10
Week 8: Find the Actual (Full Text) Article (Part 1); Matching Pieces (Part 2)	20
Week 10: Peer Review Assignment	10
Week 11: Respecting Copyright	10
Week 12: Find Books and E-books Assignment	10
Week 13: Finding a Government Document	10
Week 14: Find a Visual Source	10
Week 15: Obstacles to Research	10
Week 16: Self-Reflection Assignment	15

Week 16: Post-Test – Final Exam	30
TOTAL	200

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 e-mail.