LAA700 - Latin American Library Resources
Fall 2007

Syllabus

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Aug. 21	Introduction: Course content and objectives Basic library skills Orientation to KU online catalog Finding monographs	
27	Basic library skills cont. Introduction to serials, conference proceedings. LC Subject Headings	Mann – Chap. 2 Booth – Prologue and Chap. 1
Sept. 4	Keyword and subject searching	Mann – Chap. 10 Booth – Chap. 3
11 Class meets in Rm 419	Online database searching Peer-review journals, evaluating resources	Mann – Chap. 4 & 5
18 Class meets in Rm 419	Internet searching Evaluating resources	Booth – Chap. 6
25	General reference works Evaluating resources	Mann – Chap. 5 Booth – Chap. 1
Oct. 2	General reference works Evaluating resources	Mann – Chap. 6
9	General Latin American reference works	Mann – Chap. 15
16	Resources in history and international relations Primary, secondary and tertiary sources	Mann – Chap. 14
23	Organizational meeting for Historical Scenario	

		Record keeping and log The Research Plan	
	30	Resources in anthropology, folklore, communications, geography, education, religion, film	Mann – Chap. 3 & 8
Nov.	6	Historical Research Presentations Paper and research log due	
	13	Resources in sociology, economics, business, statistics, agriculture	Mann – Chap. 9
	20	Organization meeting for Simulation Government information, political and statistical research Intergovernmental publications, NGOS	
	27	Thanksgiving vacation	
Dec.	1	Primary sources, Media Bias Politics of Information	Mann – Chap. 11 & 13
	4	Current Events Simulation Paper and Research Log Due	

REQUIRED TEXT: Booth, Wayne C. et al. The Craft of Research. 2nd edition.
                                     Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003

RECOMMENDED TEXT: Mann, Thomas. The Oxford Guide to Library Research. 3rd
                                                  ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2005

Both books are on reserve at Watson Library.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is intended to help students develop and refine research skills in Latin American studies. It will provide an overview of the principal research methodologies and resources necessary for the study of Latin American in the social sciences and the humanities. The course covers the development of research techniques and use of resources such as primary documents, statistical sources, archival and manuscript collections, television news, official publications, and bibliographic and other electronic databases (e.g., basic bibliographical resources; electronic resources, websites; networking in the disciplines.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To learn how to locate library materials on Latin America.
- To learn how to prepare a research plan
- To learn how to formulate a research question
- To introduce the organization of information in Latin American area studies and resources in the field
- To introduce research techniques and sources within the different disciplinary areas of Latin American Studies
- To learn the effective use of these sources and research methods in research projects
- To develop systematic techniques for preparing bibliographies.
- To learn to evaluate critically various types of information on Latin America.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Short exercises to reinforce weekly topics designed to help the student become familiar with Latin American resources for research.

- Two research projects; findings to be presented in class and in papers. These long-range projects incorporate the research techniques developed in the course and focus on the historical development of Costa Rica, and a current events simulation.

- Participation in discussion is an important aspect of the seminar

REQUIREMENTS:

You are expected to attend class each time it meets.   More than one absence will adversely affect your grade. If you cannot attend class you are still responsible for work you missed.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Repeated tardiness may effect your grade. All assignments must be turned in on time. Late work will be accepted up to 2 days after it is due, but only with prior permission from the professor. Any late work will be subject to grade penalties.

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is defined as "the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work."

Individuals who disrupt or obstruct teaching may be subject to discipline for either academic misconduct or non academic misconduct against the orderly process of the university.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND DISCUSSION:

Participation & Discussion (10% of Overall Grade): Class participation will vary in form and quantity to complement weekly learning goals and activities. Students will be expected to independently pursue self-directed learning activities, as well as contribute substance and insight during group discussions and role playing. These class discussions can be productive learning activities if the learner:

- o conscientiously shares relevant resources and experiences;

- o makes connections between first-hand observations of research problems and research issues;

- o critically examines their own assumptions, as well as the assumptions of others;

- o offers and explains propositions, ideas, and insights;

- o justifies their assertions with evidence or authority;

- o interweaves the ideas of others into their own posts; and

- o summarizes readings and discussions

EVALUATION PERCENTAGES:

Historical Prospectus	35%
Political Simulation	35%
Weekly assignments and logs	20%
Class participation and discussion	10%

BLACKBOARD:

Blackboard is a Web-based course management system which will serve as our common classroom. Access Blackboard through any Web browser, such as Microsoft's Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator, at http:/courseware.ku.edu . Since this is a secure space, a valid KU ID and a password will be required to access the course site.

Blackboard offers numerous communication tools (e.g., an asynchronous discussion board and a chat tool) and file storage areas that will enable the exchange of information. For example, the *Announcements* section of Blackboard will be used to inform students of current learning goals, assignments, and deliverables. The *Documents* section will house informational and instructional resources such as PowerPoint slide presentations and activity sheets.

DIGITAL PLAGIARISM

The issue of digital plagiarism has raised concerns about ethics, student writing experiences, and academic integrity. KU subscribes to a digital plagiarism detection program called Turnitin.com which may be used to check papers submitted in this course. You may be asked to submit your papers in a digital format (email attachment, BlackBoard[tm] digital drop box or on disk) so that your paper can be checked against web pages and databases of existing papers. Although you may never have engaged in intentional plagiarism, many students do incorporate sources without citations; this program can alert me to your academic needs.

Please consider the use of the program as a learning tool for all of us.

KU WRITING CENTER

Most colleges and universities have a writing center, a place for students to talk about their writing with trained peer consultants. At KU, we call our writing centers Writer's Roosts. When you visit, bring your work in progress and an idea of what you would like to work on- organization, support, documentation, editing, etc. The Roosts are open in several different locations across campus; please check the website at www.writing.ku.edu <http://www.writing.ku.edu> for current locations and hours. The Roosts welcome both drop-ins and appointments, and there is no charge for their services. For more information, please call 864-2399 or send an e-mail to writing@ku.edu <mailto:writing@ku.edu>.