Introduction

The Humanities as a field of study consists of literature, language, fine arts, architecture, music, performing arts, film, religion and philosophy. This course is intended to be an introduction to the kinds of materials, print, electronic and other non-print, in the humanities that are likely to be used in libraries. Throughout the course, students are given the opportunity to examine print and electronic humanities reference sources. This course also provides insight into the practices, procedures, and problems of humanities libraries.

The course will consist of the following major units:
Language and Literature
Art and Architecture; Music; Dance, Theatre and Film
Religion and Philosophy
Internet
Primary Source Content
Biography

Bulletin Description

This course focuses on the study and application of reference, bibliographic and other information sources—print and non-print—in the humanities. Criteria for evaluating these sources and services and for developing appropriate collections are discussed.

Goals

The major goal of this course is to provide the student with a working knowledge of the humanities reference tools needed to function proficiently in an information environment. Second, provide an understanding of the evaluation and collection development techniques needed to start, maintain and update a humanities reference collection. Third, discuss communication theory and customer service basics.
Objectives

Understand the information needs of various clienteles in the humanities.

Comprehend the bibliographic organization and major problems of collections.

Identify and describe the core collections of humanities reference materials available in the libraries.

Describe the scope, arrangement, use and inter-relationship of humanities reference materials.

Show how the various forms and formats of humanities reference materials fit into the reference process.

Evaluate reference sources and engage in collection development.

Speak knowledgeably about humanities reference sources to individuals and groups.

Write descriptive and evaluative annotations on specific topics.

Acquire information on specific topics from the Internet—understand Google and Google Scholar. Evaluate Internet sites.

Grading

10% Attendance (mandatory) and Class Participation
25% Assignment #1
25% Assignment #2
40% Final Project
**Syllabus**

**June 10**  
9:30am – 4:30 pm  
Avery Fisher Center

**Major Topics**  
- Introduction  
- Overview of the Humanities  
- Research Methodologies  
- General Resources  
- Computing in the Humanities  
- Online resources – e-collections  
- Internet and Google “Everything”  
- Web 2.0  
- Wikipedia.

**June 11**  
9:30am – 1:30pm  
Avery Fisher Center

**Major Topics**  
- Newspapers  
- Language and Literature  
- Review Sources

**2:00pm – 4:30pm**  
Computer Lab

**Assignment**  
- Comparative research study

**June 12**  
10:00am – 1:00pm  
Computer Lab

**Major Topics**  
- Music, Dance, Film and Theatre  
- Popular Culture  
- Non-print resources  
- Image databases
1:30pm – 5:00pm
Avery Fisher Center

Major Topics
• Philosophy
• Religion
• Reference and services
• Role of the Library
• Collection Building

June 13
10:00am – 1:00pm
Classroom – not AFC

Assignment
• Booknote

1:30pm – 5:00pm
Computer Lab

Major Topics
• Biographical sources
• Interdisciplinary research
• Federated searching

June 14
9:30am – 1:00pm
Avery Fisher Center

Major Topics
• Fine Arts
• Primary Sources and Special Collections

1:30pm – 4:30pm
Computer Lab

Major Topics
• Computing and the Humanities
• Digital Commons
**Instructional Methods**

The course will consist of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared to answer questions and engage in discussion based upon readings, lectures and search findings.

**Assignments and General Information**

No hand written assignments! Only word-processed papers will be accepted. Assignments must be handed in on time. Grades will be effected for late assignments. Make-up work cannot be assigned to supplement grades. Attendance is mandatory. Any absence will result in a failing grade.
Assignment

Comparative Research in Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences

15%

Select a topic and complete searches in two databases from each of the major subject disciplines (identify 2 humanities, 2 social sciences, 2 science). Avoid complex theoretical subjects rather pick a basic subject. For example, flowers. Search each database for your topic. Note the following:

• Number of citations
• Related subject terms if provided
• Briefly summarize the nature of the articles.
• Compare how the subject is treated in each discipline and record two citations from each database.

Assignment

Booknote

15%

Following in the tradition established by the late Constance M. Winchell of Columbia University Libraries, this assignment requires you to write a “booknote” for a selected reference work. Columbia continues to publish a column entitled Selected Reference Works in College and Research Libraries.

A booknote is a short review in which you focus on describing the work. Highlight the strengths and, if necessary, weaknesses. For example, the description should include the types of entries, does it include an index and what type, are the entries signed – long or short, is there a bibliography, etc.

The content of the review should be no more than 500 words, approximately 3-4 short paragraphs.

The format should include the following information:

• General subject category
• Author or editor
• Title
• Publisher name and location
• Date
• Number of pages or number of volumes
• Note if illustrated
• ISBN

• Content of review
• Recommendation for purchase
Final Project

Develop an annotated bibliography including at least 20 resources.

You will be given adequate time to walk around Washington Square Park area as a curious observer. Identify a building, sculpture, street name – of interest. You will then proceed to research this object, person or thing. Identify relevant disciplines and explore others.

Organize your bibliography in a way that makes the most sense to you. Chronologically, by topic, by resource format.

Provide full citations for your resources. Write a 1-3 line annotation for each resource.

Example:
Asch Building located at 23-29 Washington Place
Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire
Secondary Readings:


Hesse, Carla. “Humanities and the Library in the Digital Age.” What’s Happened to the Humanities? Edited by Alvin Kernan, Princeton University Press,


Reed, Bonnie and Donald R. Tanner. “Information Needs and Library Services for the Fine Arts Faculty.” Journal of Academic Librarianship 27(3), May 2001, p 229-
