Course Portfolio

INFO3030
User Studies

Period: [Fall -2014]

[2015]
# Course File

## Course File Summary

### 1. Course Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/Institute/Centre</th>
<th>COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Department of Information Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Title</td>
<td>Information Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester\Year</td>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>English: User Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arabic: دراسات المستفيدين</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>INFO3030</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre Requisites</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Language</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Hours</td>
<td>Lecture: ---3-- (Weekly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total: --3--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Practical/Fieldwork: ------ (Weekly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Weeks</td>
<td>--14--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students</td>
<td>Lecture: 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Student dropped</td>
<td>Practical/Fieldwork: 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1
2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>ARABIC COURSE DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This course examines the individual and social aspects related to human information needs, information-seeking behavior, and uses. It puts emphasis on the main related elements of the human seeking behavior such as the nature of information, types and characteristics of seekers, models, paradigms, and theories of information behavior, methods for studying information behavior. The course will also touch on the searching strategies and techniques, formal and informal sources of information and electronic resources utilized by users, and barriers affecting users' information-seeking behavior.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. COURSE AIM

The main objective of the course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of user studies and related areas.

4. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Examines the individual and social aspects related to human information needs, information-seeking behavior, and uses.
- Puts emphasis on the major related elements of the human-seeking behavior such as the nature of information, types and characteristics of seekers, models, paradigms, and theories of information behavior, methods for studying information behavior.
- Touches on the searching strategies and techniques, formal and informal sources of information and electronic resources utilized by users, and barriers affecting users’ information-seeking behavior.
5. COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify the major concepts related to information needs, uses, and information-seeking behavior.
- Identify models, paradigms, and theories used in user studies.
- Provide examples of different methods for studying information seeking behavior and strategies and techniques used by various groups of users.
- Provide more detailed information on information-seeking practices in developing societies in the non-English speaking world, and
- Identify the perceived and actual barriers to users’ effective information-seeking behavior.
- Design a framework for practical studies investigating information-seeking behavior in physical or electronic environments.

6. LECTURES SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course Overview and Introduction: content, schedule, assignments, and grading.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2    | The Nature and Value of Information  
|      | • The Concept of Information  
|      | • Role of Information in Society  
|      | Social Role of Libraries and Information Institutions |
| 3 & 4| Concepts Related to Information Behavior  
|      | • Information Needs  
|      | • Information Seeking  
|      | Information Use |
| 5    | Overview of Research Literature in Information Behavior |
| 6, 7 & 8 | Theories and Models of Information Behavior  
|      | • Wilson Model  
|      | • Information Grounds Theory  
|      | • Kuhlthau Model  
|      | • Ellis Model  
|      | • Krikelas’ Model of Information Seeking  
|      | • Al-Suqri Model  
|      | Mid-term Examination |
| 9    | Methods for Studying Information Needs, Seeking, and Use |
| 10 & 11 | Context of Seeking and Characteristics of Seekers |
7. TEACHING STRATEGIES AND TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Method</th>
<th>Teaching Media</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures,</td>
<td>Videos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential exercises, and</td>
<td>Power-point Presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

- Participation 15%
- Assignment I: Grant Proposal: Applying for a Research Fund 10%
- Assignment II: Information Seeking Event or Experience 10%
- Assignment III: Literature Review Project 15%
- Assignment IV: Diary of Actions and Thoughts 10%
- Midterm Exam 10%
- Final Exam 30%

9. COURSE RULES

Attendance
Attendance at class is mandatory. Course Instructors should keep attendance records. An "absentee warning notice" will be issued if a student is absent for:
- More than 10% in courses with less than 75 total contact hours.
- More than 5% in courses with 75 or more total contact hours.

An "absentee withdrawal notice" will be issued and the student will be deemed to have withdrawn from the course with an 'FW' grade if a student is absent for:
- More than 20% in courses with less than 75 total contact hours.
- More than 15% in courses with 75 to 150 total contact hours.
- More than 10% of total contact hours for courses with more than 150 total contact hours.

10. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Books


Articles


8. Al-Suqri, M. N. (2010). Socio-Demographic Differences in Information Seeking Behavior of Social Science Scholars in Developing Countries: The Case of Sultan Qaboos University. Information Studies, 9, 51-68.


II. LECTURES
III. LECTURE NOTES/HAND-OUTS
IV. EXAMS SAMPLE
V. A SAMPLE OF STUDENTS’ ANSWERS
VI. A SAMPLE OF EXERCISES AND STUDENTS’ ANSWERS
VII. A SAMPLE OF ASSIGNMENTS AND STUDENTS’ ACTIVITIES
VIII. RESULTS AND GRADES