

**MLIS 7150**  
*Dr. Robert Swisher*  
**Social Science Research Resources**  
**Course Information**

**Description of the Course:**

**Social Science Research Resources** explores the range of social science information domains and information resources. These include the structures and bibliographies of the disciplines in electronic and/or print format. Various information formats are examined. Appropriate search and retrieval methods are explored.

**Social Science Research Resources** is a 3 credit letter-graded graduate course taught through the Internet, using electronic mail and a web browser for class communication. There is no onsite instructor/student class time in this course; it is taught completely over the Internet.

Through Internet communications tools, along with free browser plugins and helper applications, students will pick up lessons, readings and demonstrations; participate in a virtual class discussion with other students taking the course; and turn in assignments that take each student through the rich traditional resources of the Social Sciences and their Related Professional Areas, as well as the rapidly developing world of online scholarly and research resources in those same areas.

Instructor: Dr Wallace Koehler – [wkoehler@valdosta.edu](mailto:wkoehler@valdosta.edu)

**Need for the Course:**

Today's graduate students will be held to a higher standard of disciplinary currency than their predecessors. Knowledge continues to grow at an accelerating pace, forcing knowledge workers to both specialize more and to also spend more time trying to keep in touch, on at least a cursory level, with major developments in a growing number of related knowledge domains.

The skills needed to survive in this ever more complex world of knowledge are both technical and intellectual. Technically, graduate students must be comfortable with the Internet-based information and communication technologies that afford some control over the knowledge generation problem.

Intellectually, these same students need to understand the structure and process of Social Science knowledge domains (literatures) and their parallel helping systems (bibliography), the most efficient and effective strategies for identifying and retrieving appropriate information, and the major indexing and document delivery systems that are available for their use.

**Prerequisites:**

MLIS 7000 and MLIS 7100

**Hardware/software requirements: Course Technology Requirements**

Students will find it difficult to complete the course successfully with anything less than a Pentium level microcomputer, at least 16 meg of RAM, and plenty of hard disk space. Although software

examples will be given in terms of the Windows operating system, students who feel competent to translate examples into the relevant Mac frame of reference may do so. However, the course assumes that students possess fundamental microcomputing software skills, and software installation and implementation will be in terms of Windows.

### **Fundamental Computing/Communication Skills:**

- Students must have continuing, guaranteed access to the Internet (at 28.8 PPP modem access, at an absolute minimum)
- The most recent version of Internet Explorer or Netscape
- An e-mail server that allows MIME attachments
- Locating, transferring, and installing other Internet helper applications and plug-ins
- Using the Adobe Acrobat reader with web-linked pdf files, and with email attachments
- Using e-mail to send word processor files as attachments

### **Textbook:**

The text for the course is by Nancy Herron, general editor:

**Herron, Nancy, general editor. The social sciences: a cross-disciplinary guide to selected sources. Libraries Unlimited, 2002. paperback edition. ISBN: 1-56308-882-7 (\$60)**

### **Course Topics**

- The Structure of Literature and Bibliography in the Social Sciences and Professional Areas
  - Types of Literature and their Uses
  - Types of Bibliography and How They Assist the Literature
- Traditional Print and Newer Digital sources of Literature and Bibliography
- Models for Effective and Efficient Searching
  - The Theory of Least Effort: Satisfying
  - Traditional models of organization and retrieval
  - Synthesizing model of searching
- Finding and Obtaining Traditional Resources and Invisible Web Resources Through the Internet
  - Journal literature
  - Books
  - Government Publications
  - Theses and Dissertations
  - Other Important Discipline-specific Literature Types
- Locating Reliable Information on the Internet Itself, not Through it
  - Criteria for Judging the Relevance and Reliability of Information on the Internet
  - Search Engines and Other Finding Tools for the Internet
  - Rated and Selected Resources for the Internet

- General Social Sciences Literature and Bibliography
- Literature and Bibliography of the Social Sciences and Professional Areas
  - Political Science
  - Economics
  - Business
  - History
  - Law and Justice
  - Anthropology
  - Sociology
  - Education
  - Psychology
  - Geography
  - Communication

### **Evaluation:**

Exceptionally exceeds minimum standards- A

Exceeds minimum standards- B

Meets minimum standards - C

Barely meets minimum standards - D

Fails to meet minimum standards - F

### **VSU Policy:**

#### **Academic Dishonesty**

Valdosta State University expects that graduate students will pursue their academic endeavors and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. All work that a student presents to satisfy course requirements should represent his or her own efforts, including appropriate use and acknowledgement of external sources. Specific regulations related to student conduct and behavior are contained in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics.

#### **Special Needs Statement**

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of our institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as the Title IX section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students not registered with the Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room 2164, 229-245-2498.