New Course Proposal

AIS 535
Using Scholarly Library Resources in Support of Graduate Research

1. Bulletin Description
AIS 535 - Using Scholarly Library Resources in Support of Graduate Research
2 credits lecture
Prerequisites: None
Course graded: A-F

This course guides graduate students through the process of locating, critically selecting, and managing scholarly sources. Emphasis also on graduate program-specific scholarly writing rules of style compliance. Hands-on practice searching of online databases and other Internet resources is an integral part of the course. Issues discussed and applied include plagiarism, authorship & publishing research, using program-specific databases, organization, critical thinking, content evaluation, and copyright basics. Appropriate for any discipline at any graduate level.

(Since AIS does not offer a program, this course does not affect the program requirements.)

2. Rationale
Why the course is needed
AIS 535 is not a stand-alone research course. Instead, it is interdisciplinary and designed to complement program-specific research courses. It is needed to help graduate students meet the scholarly literature components of their research, whether in the form of a thesis or other type of final graduate project original research, or complex course assignment. AIS 535 is also helpful to students who are preparing manuscripts for publication or conference presentations. This course will offer students the ability to learn a variety of techniques for searching and analyzing scholarly literature, how to organize their work using freely-available research managers (e.g. Zotero & EndNote Lite), properly document sources using program-specific standard rules of style, and identify opportunities for presenting or publishing their research.

AIS 535 increases the number of 500-level courses available and applicable to any of NMU’s graduate students regardless of their program.

The course also helps meet the Graduate Education Mission Statement #2: prepares individuals for advanced academic work, particularly in the academic disciplines.

Since AIS does not have a program, required/elective/track aspects do not apply.
3. Course Outline
(a) General topics to be covered:

1) Introduction
   Academic Dishonesty & Plagiarism
   Scholarly Publishing, Authorship, & Institutional Repositories
   Organizing & Managing Research

2) Searching / Documenting Articles
   Searching for Scholarly Articles using Program-specific Databases
   Maintaining Currency w/Scholarly Literature
   Citing & Referencing Scholarly Articles per Published Standards
   Analyzing Research Articles

3) Searching / Documenting Monographs
   Searching for Books & Book Chapters
   Searching for Theses/Dissertations
   Locating Government Information
   Locating Statistics

4) Scholarly Impact
   Journal Impact
   Using Google Scholar to Track Cited Sources
   Scholarly Communication & the Scholarly Web

5) Copyright & Future
   Copyright basics
   Presenting / Publishing Research
   Life After Graduation (access to resources)

(b) Course Objectives:
   1. Apply best practices to avoid plagiarism.

   2. Use library resources to search scholarly literature including research journals, academic books, & theses/dissertations.

   3. Employ critical thinking skills to select appropriate scholarly literature.

   4. Critically review and analyze graduate program-specific scholarly literature.

   5. Apply program-specific published international standard rules of style including in-text citing and referencing of scholarly literature.

   6. Prepare Project for thesis, file paper, scholarly project, manuscript for publication or conference presentation, or research paper for another graduate course.

   7. Identify professional opportunities for presenting / publishing research.
(c) Evaluation Methodologies - Students will be evaluated through the following:

- Written Assignments
- EduCat Forum Contributions
- In-class Activities & Participation
- Draft Project
- Final Project

(d) Relevant Course Materials

Sample Textbooks:


*Style Manual/Guide*


OR

Program-required Style Manual / Guide (including Journal-specific author guidelines)

Additional Readings available through eReserves.
Additional Resources linked through EduCat.

4. Course Objectives
   See 3(b) above as this is not a 400-level course.

5. Staffing
   Two AIS faculty are qualified to teach the course and currently hold Graduate Faculty Status: Professor Michael Strahan and Dr. Mary Freier.

6. Equipment and Supplies
   There are no new budgetary needs.

7. Library Holdings
   In discussion with Douglas Black, Collection Development Librarian, current Library resources are adequate for this course.

8. Costs
   There are no additional costs to support this course.
9. **Effects on Other Departments**
This course will replace AIS 435 (approved for graduate credit) in the following graduate programs. Letters of support are included with this proposal:
- Nursing: Doctor of Nursing Practice (Pre-requisite)
- Psychology: Training and Performance Improvement (Required)
- Exercise Science: (Recommended)
- Biology: (Recommend)

10. **Implementation Date:** Fall 2015