INF 382K - Information Resources in the Health Sciences

Spring 2015
Classroom: UTA 1.504
Class time: Thursdays, 12:00pm-3:00pm

Instructor: Bo Xie, Ph.D., Associate Professor
School of Information: UTA 5.450, 512-471-3876
School of Nursing: NUR 4.148, 512-232-5788
Email: boxie@utexas.edu (email is the best way to reach me)

Office Hours: Thursdays, 11:00am – 12:00pm (UTA 5.450) + by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Ivan Watkins, JD, MLS
Email: iwatkins@utexas.edu

I. Description:
Evaluation of conventional and online health information resources used by consumers and health care professionals for health promotion and disease and disorder prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management. Includes traditional and alternative approaches, genetic clinical information approaches, and evidence-based approaches to the use of resources.

II. Course Objectives:

1. To learn about major health information resources, in both print and electronic formats, for both healthcare providers and consumers. These include:
   1) Major websites providing comprehensive health information, including PubMed, MedlinePlus, NLM, CDC, HealthFinder, WHO, MLA, the Cochrane Library, etc.
   2) MeSH
   3) Genetic information sources
   4) Evidence-based approaches
   5) Bibliographic sources for monographs, periodicals, handbooks, manuals, conferences, reviews, medical statistics, and historical topics
   6) The grey (gray) literature
   7) U.S. government information sources
   8) Basic medical terminology
   9) Information sources for drugs and supplements
   10) Information sources for complementary, alternative, and integrative healthcare
   11) The role of technology in healthcare, focusing on topics such as health informatics, big data and social media in healthcare, and eHealth/mHealth
   12) International health sources
   13) Health information sources for other languages and cultures

2. To practice and develop competence in using information resources effectively to find high quality answers to specific health-related questions, and presenting and leading discussions on selected health resources and their relative strengths and limitations.

3. To conduct comprehensive searches on major health conditions and to write reports to explain the search process and findings.
### III. Format and Procedures:
This course is seminar-style. All students should actively participate and make high quality contributions during class discussions.

### IV. Tentative Course Schedule:
**This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As the semester progresses, these plans may need revision to enhance learning opportunities. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Main Topics</th>
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| 1    | 1/22 | - Introduction  
- Overview of major websites  
- Career options |
| 2    | 1/29 | - Health information seeking behaviors  
- MeSH and other NLM guides; PubMed tutorials  
- Evidence-based approaches  
- Discuss Written Report #1 |
| 3    | 2/5  | - Bibliographic sources for monographs  
- Discuss Written Report #1 |
| 4    | 2/12 | - Bibliographic sources for periodicals  
- Discuss Written Report #1 |
| 5    | 2/19 | - Indexing, abstracting, and digital database resources  
- Grey (gray) literature  
- Discuss Written Report #1 |
| 6    | 2/26 | - U.S. government documents and technical reports  
- Discuss Written Report #1 |
| 7    | 3/5  | - Conferences, reviews, and translations  
- Discuss Written Report #1 |
| 8    | 3/12 | - Terminology  
- Written Report #1 due  
- Oral Presentation #1 due |
| 9    | 3/19 | Spring Break – No Class |
| 10   | 3/26 | - Handbooks and manuals  
- Drug information sources  
- Discuss Written Report #2 |
| 11   | 4/2  | - Consumer health sources  
- Complementary/alternative/integrative health approaches  
- Health literacy  
- Discuss Written Report #2 |
| 12   | 4/9  | - Medical and health statistics  
- Discuss Written Report #2 |
| 13   | 4/16 | - History sources  
- Discuss Written Report #2 |
| 14   | 4/23 | - Directories and biographical sources  
- Discuss Written Report #2 |
| 15   | 4/30 | - Point-of-care and clinical decision support resources  
- Health informatics; big data; social media; eHealth/mHealth  
- Discuss Written Report #2 |
Feedback Statement
During this course I will ask you for feedback on your learning in formal and informal ways. This process will include anonymous surveys asking about how my teaching strategies help or hinder your learning. It's very important for me to know your reaction to what we’re doing in class, so I encourage you to complete the surveys. This process can collaboratively create an effective teaching and learning environment.

V. Course Requirements:
1. Class attendance and participation policy:
   (a) Attendance: Students must attend every class – the class is a team and everyone is needed!
   (b) Participation: Class participation requires more than sitting in the classroom each week. Students should read ALL assigned readings and prepare to discuss.
   (c) IMPORTANT: Regular completion of this course requires not only attendance but also active participation.

   Religious Holy Days
   By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

2. Course Readings/Materials:
   Required textbook:

   Other course readings are available via the library’s e-journal databases or on the Web. For the week-by-week readings list, see the course Canvas site: [http://canvas.utexas.edu](http://canvas.utexas.edu) [Note: You can find support in using Canvas at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so plan accordingly.]

   All weekly course readings must be completed prior to the course meeting for that week.

3. Assignments
   All assignments must be submitted by the posted deadline. Late assignments are unacceptable. Remember, the student must inform the instructor of an intended absence for religious observances in advance. In the event of an unexpected incident such as a medical emergency, submit a written explanation to the instructor immediately upon returning to class. Details are provided in the separate Assignments Instructions document in the course Canvas site.
VI. Grading Procedures: Grades will be based on:

(a) Weekly class participation and presentations
   • Class attendance and participation: contributing to class discussions (10%)
   • Writing and posting of health-related questions (10%)
   • Presentations of selected web and print sources (15%)
   • Presentations of the search process of finding answers to peer questions (15%)

(b) Written Reports

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written Report #1 (15%)</th>
<th>March 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Report #2 (15%)</td>
<td>May 7</td>
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(c) Oral Presentations

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<tr>
<th>Oral Presentation #1 (10%)</th>
<th>March 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation #2 (10%)</td>
<td>May 7</td>
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VII. Academic Integrity

University of Texas Honor Code: “The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.” Students in this course must follow the University of Texas Honor Code, which prohibits cheating, plagiarizing, submitting the same written assignment for two courses without authorization, and unauthorized collaboration/collusion. Suspected academic dishonesty will be reported and handled according to University policy and procedures. For a detailed description of the University definition of academic dishonesty, visit: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint_whatis.php. Students are responsible for applying the academic integrity standards to this course. It is essential students know the consequences of cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty. For specific information on these consequences, visit: http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/

VIII. Other University Notices and Policies

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students
All students should become familiar with the University’s official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student’s responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-m/
Documented Disability Statement
Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512)-(471)-6259 (voice) or (512)-410-6644 (videophone). Faculty is not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD.

- Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).

- Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at (512)-471-6259 (voice) or (512)-410-6644 (videophone). or reference SSD’s website for more disability-related information: http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)
If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal.

Emergency Evacuation Policy
Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.