



Librarian Support in Large Enrollment Courses Examples from 2005-2006

Near Eastern Studies 18: Introduction to Egyptology

Enrollment: ~100, non-majors, mostly freshmen

Assignment Description:

Students select an artifact from the Egyptian collection in the Hearst museum and write about it, using 3-5 scholarly sources to help them contextualize the object's cultural significance. Instructor requires they consult at least one book and one article from the journal literature in archaeology.

Librarian Contribution:

Librarian designed 3 short tutorials with accompanying worksheets to guide the information-gathering process and teach basic knowledge and skills transferable to work in other disciplines.

[Online at <http://library.berkeley.edu/~kgallagh/nes18/index.htm>]

Other Details:

Tutorial is linked from course web site. Students are required to complete worksheets and turn them in to GSIs in section, and section time is devoted to discussion of issues and problems related to their search for sources.

Political Science 1AC: Introduction to American Politics

Enrollment: ~500, mostly non-majors, mostly freshmen

Assignment Description:

Students are assigned to a current member of the U.S. House of Representatives (abbreviated "MOC," for "member of Congress," in the attached document) whom they investigate throughout the semester, compiling a series of fact sheets and brief analytical pieces related to campaigns and elections.

Librarian Contribution:

The information students need to find in order to complete the assignments for this course is often very specific (e.g., the size of the campaign contribution a candidate received from a particular interest group), sometimes fugitive, and dispersed across a range of sources freshmen would typically not be familiar with. The librarian designed a tailored "Resource Tip Sheet" to minimize time students would have to spend searching

unproductively, and maximize the time they could then devote to reading and analysis. [See bSpace folder, Resources/Day 4/Gallagher: PS1-tipsheet.pdf]

Other Details:

Tip Sheet is posted to course web site by the start of the semester, giving students the opportunity to get started as early as possible.

Political Science 120a: Introduction to International Relations

Enrollment: ~300, mostly PS majors, juniors-seniors

Assignment Description:

Students select from among 4 broad topics covered in the course ("effects of globalization in developing countries," "nuclear proliferation in the Post Cold War era," etc.) and prepare an annotated bibliography on the topic.

Librarian Contribution:

Librarian designed a "pre-research" worksheet (distributed with the "Goals & Outcomes" handouts on Day 2 of the Institute), with minimal prompts to get them started, in order to ascertain student understanding of the "information landscape". The pre-assignment was followed by a lecture/online demonstration in Wheeler during the regular class meeting time, which addressed the major difficulties students had and the questions that they raised. [See bSpace folder for handout that accompanied this session: Resources/Day 4/Gallagher: PS120_handout.doc]

Other Details:

Completion of the pre-research activity is required. GSIs collect completed worksheets for their sections and return them to the librarian for review one week before the class presentation.