INF 397 – Seeking Funding for Information Studies

Syllabus

Unique Number: 81978

Semester: Summer, 2007

Professor: Randolph G. Bias, Ph.D., CHFP
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Office: SZB 562BB

Office Hours: By appointment.

Class Time: T/W/Th Noon-3:00 p.m.

Classroom: SZB 556

TA: S. C. (“Hans”) Huang
huangsc@mail.utexas.edu

Textbook: None.

Readings will be put on reserve in the iSchool IT lab.

Synopsis:

This class is designed to help students gain an understanding of, and hands-on experience with, the pursuit of funding for information studies and associated institutions (e.g., libraries and museums).

Objectives:

The student who successfully completes this class will have:

- spent some time considering his/her five-year plan
- investigated a wide variety of possible funding sources
- built a notebook of application guidelines of various agencies
- learned the process of applying for a “sponsored project” at UT
- written (and submitted??) at least one grant application.
Instructional Techniques:

The course will entail various instructional techniques:
1 – lecture
2 – demonstration
3 – student-directed discussion
4 – group exercise
5 – self-instruction, with question-answering by the professor
6 – attention to the real world
7 – individual project.

Expectations:

Expect to learn about a wide variety of funding sources, and how best to approach them.
Expect to write and submit at least one request for funding.
Expect to help others in the class with their learning and funding requests.

Policies:

Grades:

Your grade will be based on three things:
1 – Class participation (30%)
2 – Your feedback to other students on their projects (30%)
3 – Final grant or contract application, and an oral presentation of it to the class (40%)

Cheating:

Don’t. Dire consequences. (Hard to imagine what cheating might look like.)

Late Assignments:

Your grade will be docked one grade per day late, for your written assignment.

Etc.:

- Attendance matters. When you aren’t here, you deprive your classmates of your shared wisdom.
- If you have a question, please ask. I will be very receptive to emails at any time, and phone calls before 10:00 p.m. (But call anytime if you need to. Really. No, really.)
- Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.
Schedule:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Topics</th>
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<td><strong>Week 1 – “Hunh?”</strong></td>
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| **T, 7/10** | 1 | - Introduction  
- Once around the room  
- Syllabus review  
- Some successful and some unsuccessful examples of grant proposals |
| **W, 7/11** | 2 | Guest presenter:  
- Drew Racine, Professional Librarian, MPA, UT Libraries |
| **Th, 7/12** | 3 | Guest presenter:  
- Dorothy Hight, iSchool Accountant  
- Surf the net and bring with you the application guidelines from two different agencies or foundations that could possibly fund your proposed research/institution/collection. |
| **Week 2 – “Oh.”** | | |
| **T, 7/17** | 4 | Visit to Allison Supancic, Director, Hogg Foundation Library |
| **W, 7/18** | 5 | Guest presenter:  
- Dr. Tommy Darwin, UT Graduate School |
| **Th, 7/19** | 6 | Student-led discussion  
- Have at least one target agency, foundation, company picked, and be prepared to share that with the class. |
| **Week 3 – “I see.”** | | |
| **T, 7/24** | 7 | Marc Resnick, Director, Institute Technology Innovation; Rick Friedman, Office of Technology Commercialization; Georgia Harper, iSchool doctoral student, and so much more |
| **W, 7/25** | 8 | Walk – workshop on your own |
**Project – Grant Application**

Following the guidelines of your chosen granting agency or company, write AND SUBMIT (??) an application for funding. You may choose to yoke up with a faculty member to do this, but his/her busy-ness, summer schedule, fading interest, nor sloth will be a satisfactory excuse for not submitting the application – this is YOUR assignment.