INF 397 – Seeking Funding for Information Studies

Syllabus

Unique Number: 28125

Semester: Fall, 2008

Professor: Randolph G. Bias, Ph.D., CHFP
(w) 471-7046
(c) 657-3924
(h) 836-0845
rbias@ischool.utexas.edu

Office: SZB 562B

Office Hours: Wednesdays, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
And by appointment.

Class Time: Monday, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Classroom: SZB 464

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


Other readings will be available online or 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.

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.
- 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignment (due BEFORE class)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M, 9/8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>- Introduction</td>
<td>- Build your five-year plan. One page.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Once around the room</td>
<td>- Surf the net and bring with you the application guidelines from two different agencies or foundations that could possibly fund your proposed research.</td>
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<td>- Syllabus review</td>
<td>- Read the textbook.</td>
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<td>M, 9/15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Who are we and why might we need funding?</td>
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<td>- Build your five-year plan. One page. In a sealed envelope.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Surf the net and bring with you the application guidelines from two different agencies or foundations that could possibly fund your proposed research.</td>
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<td>- Read the textbook.</td>
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<td>M, 9/22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Visit with Allison Supancic, Librarian for The Regional Foundation Library. The address is 1009 East 11th Street, 2nd Floor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, 9/29</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Guest presenter:</td>
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<td>- Dr. Tommy Darwin, UT Graduate School</td>
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<td>M, 10/6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Guest presenters:</td>
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<td>- Barbara Reyes and Elena Mota, UT Office of Sponsored Projects</td>
<td>- Have at least one target agency, foundation, company picked, and be prepared to share that with the class.</td>
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<td>- Kamar Nassor, iSchool Financial Analyst</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, 10/13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Grant application workshop</td>
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<td>M, 10/20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Grant application workshop</td>
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<td>M, 10/27</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Grant application workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, 11/3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Grant application workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, 11/10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Grant application workshop</td>
<td>First drafts of grant application due</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, 11/17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Summary of all grant applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, 11/24</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Summary of all grant applications</td>
<td>Final grant applications submitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>M, 12/1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Special session</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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, schedule, fading interest, nor sloth will be a satisfactory excuse for not submitting the application – this is YOUR assignment.