Embedding Information Literacy Into a Political Science Course Across Semesters

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Background

PSC 391 is a course offered annually at UNCG and is mostly taken by Political Science majors. In the past, the course has been offered in person. In the Fall 2019 semester, Dr. Michael Broache, the course instructor, applied for and received an Information Literacy Faculty Development Award offered by the University Libraries. The grant requires incorporation of information literacy student learning outcomes as well as visits from a librarian (Rachel Olsen), which turned into three sessions focused on information literacy for the course's required term research paper.
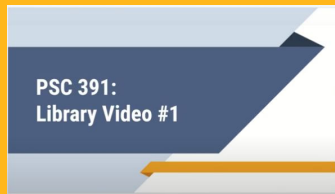
Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

The course was again offered in Fall of 2020, but exclusively online this time. Instead of three information literacy visits to the class, the librarian came once briefly as an introduction and designed three modules with content and quizzes to check students' understanding of the concepts. The research paper for the course continued to be a central requirement of the class for this semester.

PSC 391: African Political Systems

PSC 391 LibGuide: uncg.libguides.com/psc391

PSC 391:
Library Video #1

Research & Future Directions

Because of the success of this collaboration over the past several years, the instructor and the librarian have decided to conduct a study comparing the research papers of students who received in-person instruction with the papers of those who received online only instruction. A rubric has been designed based on a model from Claremont College which will evaluate various information literacy concepts and the level of success students have had with applying those concepts to their research and writing. Papers will be anonymized and evaluated by members of the faculty of the University Libraries and Department of Political Science and International and Global Studies.

Contact Us!

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