

Re-envisioning Information Literacy for the 21st century: A New Hybrid Course Model at AUC

Meredith Saba & Benjamin Carter



The Historical Evolution of LALT

- Began in early 2000s
- Part of AUC's core curriculum for all students (graduation requirement)
- Pass/Fail Course
- From Fully In-Person to Fully Online in Spring 2020
- Format: Short topical lecture followed by individual and small group activities, which directly apply the lesson.
- Final Exam – Week 15



New Course Vision

- ❖ Reinforces the Liberal Arts Curriculum
- ❖ Reasserts the significance of LALT within the First Year Program (FYP)
- ❖ Focuses on fundamentals and student needs (including those with disabilities)
- ❖ Awareness of the AUC Library, its resources, and their impact on student academic success



Highlights: Overall Changes

- ❖ From a 15-week model to 10 weeks + consultations
- ❖ 75 min. sessions instead of 50 min.
- ❖ Integrated 21st century skills into the course
- ❖ Modified course description
- ❖ Practicum instead of final exam
(librarian consultations / practical application of skills)
- ❖ Focus on student needs: enhance the AUC experience and Quality of Education (**AUC strategic plan**)



Content Changes

Maintain core library research skills (catalog, databases, citations, etc.), but add the following:

- ❖ Greater student awareness of course purpose and application (personal lives, studies, careers post-AUC)
- ❖ Orient students to broader concept of IL within a liberal arts context
- ❖ Ethical use of information, critical thinking skills, etc.
- ❖ Digital literacy skills needed in the 21st century



21st Century Skills, Competencies, Standards

- ❖ AACU Rubrics
- ❖ ACRL Standards (IL Frameworks)
- ❖ Soft skills and hard skills



Format Changes

- ❖ 15 week, fully online for Academic Year 2020-2021
- ❖ 10 weeks + 5 weeks of librarian consultations
that culminates with a practicum (in lieu of a final)
- ❖ Hybrid course – partially in person, partially online
(exploring Dual Delivery option for Fall 2021)
- ❖ Emphasis on practice and practical application tied to
the learning outcomes.



Challenges for Fall 2021

- ❖ Number of students per class (with 18 sections)
- ❖ Number of instructors for the course
- ❖ Ongoing flexibility: In-person vs. online
- ❖ Facilities / Space Availability (social distancing)



Questions?

