

Valdosta State University
Master of Library and Information Science
MLIS 7000: Foundations of Library and Information Science
Tentative Syllabus--Fall 2009 Tentative
Three Credit Hours

Dr. Bill Meehan
Odum Library-- 4640
1500 N. Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31698

Phone: (229) 249-2726
Fax: (229) 259-5055
E-mail: wfmeehan@valdosta.edu
Office Hours: T, TH 12-2; and in Macon

Description

An introduction to the library and information science field, its history, and future directions. The focus is on the history, concepts, and technological development of the discipline. Students will gain familiarity with library and information theory, the discipline and sub-disciplines within the information sciences, and ethical practices and standards.

Objectives and Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to

- Discuss the major topics, concepts, history, and issues of LIS
- Explain the functions, service perspective, and ethics of the LIS profession
- Explain the role of technology in LIS services
- Describe the similarities and differences among types of libraries and information centers
- Use LIS vocabulary
- Analyze trends in LIS job announcements
- Examine LIS literature
- Discuss the role of library and information services in a diverse global society
- Employ oral and written communications skills

Textbooks

Richard Rubin. *Foundations of Library and Information Science*. 2004. 2nd Edition.
Nicholas A. Basbanes. *Patience and Fortitude*. 2001. Paper edition.

Class Meetings

Macon State College Jones Hall 396. Saturdays 10:00-5:00 and Sundays 10:00-3:00.
Class will meet on the following days: August 22-23, September 26-27, October 24-25,
and November 21-22

Syllabus and Readings

August 22-23	<p>Introductory</p> <p>View C-SPAN's Q & A with Librarian of Congress Billingsley</p> <p>LIS Job Sites</p> <p>LIS Web Sites</p> <p>Technology Overview</p> <p>Read Rubin Chapters 1 and 2; Appendix A and B</p> <p>Read Dewey's "The Profession" (on Course Reserves) for discussion</p> <p>Read Ethics Case TBA (on Course Reserves) for discussion</p>
September 26-27	<p>LIS News Reports</p> <p>Job ads analysis presentation</p> <p>Rubin Presentations: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5</p> <p>Ethics Case TBA</p>
October 24-25	<p>LIS News Reports</p> <p>Library Tour Report Presentation</p> <p>Rubin Presentations: Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10</p> <p>Ethics Case TBA</p>
November 21-22	<p>LIS News Reports</p> <p>Basbanes Presentations: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12</p> <p>Ethics Case TBA</p>

Graded Assignments

The following assignments are graded. All assignments are to be completed in order to pass the course.

Participation	10%
Instructional Presentation	20%
Job Ads Analysis	5%
Library Tour Report	10%
Portfolio	5%
Journals Report	10%
Final Exam	40%

Participation

In-class participation is integral to the course, so it is expected that students contribute consistently. Following classroom guidelines and displaying conscientious completion of the required but un-graded LIS news reports, which are oral and brief, are factors that will affect the grade. Additional details will be explained at the first class meeting.

Instructional Presentation

Each student will prepare and present an individual instructional session on an assigned chapter or part of a chapter in Ruben or Basbanes. More details about the presentations will follow. Assignments will be made at the first class meeting.

Job Ads Analysis

Due by 12 noon September 22 as email attachment on BlazeVIEW (name the file: lastname_jobads.doc). Monitor two of the sources of job announcements listed below. Read ads for jobs that interest you and write an analysis of 150 words that

- 1) identifies and briefly describes the sources, and notes the overlap between the sources
- 2) identifies the types of jobs monitored
- 3) comments on patterns in the required and preferred qualifications
- 4) describes your current abilities for the jobs and your plans while seeking the MLIS to enhance your competitiveness as a candidate

Sources of job ads are

- ALA job list <http://joblist.ala.org/>
- ARL <http://careers.arl.org/>
- The Chronicle of Higher Education <http://chronicle.com/jobs/browse/position/Administrative>: <http://chronicle.com/jobs/300/100/>
Faculty/research <http://chronicle.com/jobs/100/600/>
- www.LISjobs.com
- HigherEdJobs.com: Library administration: <http://www.higheredjobs.com/admin/search.cfm?JobCat=34>
- Georgia and Southeast <http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/jobs/index.php>

Tour Report

Due October 21 by 12 noon on BlazeVIEW as email attachment. Name the file: lastname_tour.doc. Interview a librarian, tour the library where the librarian works, and answer the questions below. If others in the class want to go to the same library, respect the librarian's time by going together. This interview may be scheduled at the library in which you work provided that someone you don't already know well is the interviewee.

- 1) Contact a librarian at the library you have selected. Identify yourself as a student in the VSU MLIS program and explain that you have received this assignment.
- 2) Request an appointment to interview the librarian and to tour the library. Explain that you will be asking questions to complete the assignment. Take notes.
- 3) Call or write a note of thanks.
- 4) With your notes and your recollection of the interview and tour, write an essay of 250 words that includes the following:

Name of Librarian:

Name of Library:

Librarian's Background:

What is the librarian's education and employment experience?

Why did this person choose to be a librarian?

Why did this person choose this type of library?

To what professional organizations does this person belong?

Nature of Library:

Who are the patrons?

What materials are collected and made available to the patrons?
What services are provided? Which services are most heavily used?

Culture of the library:

How has technology influenced the physical arrangement of the library?
What additions/renovations conform to trends in patron needs?

Journals Report

Due November 12 by 12 noon as email attachment on BlazeVIEW. Name the file lastname_journalsreport.doc. Analyze a recent print issue of two LIS journals from the list provided by completing the template below.

Select two LIS scholarly journals from the following:

- *Libraries & the Cultural Record*
- *Library Collections, Acquisitions & Technical Services*
- *Library Administration and Management*
- *Library and Information Science Research*
- *The Library Quarterly*
- *Library Resources and Technical Services*
- *Library Technology Reports*
- *Library Trends*
- *College and Research Library Quarterly*
- *The Reference Librarian*
- More to come

For the two LIS journals complete the following

1. Name of Publication, Issue Examined, and pdf of cover
2. Publisher/Sponsor
3. Frequency of Publication
4. Aim/Purpose/Scope/Audience (limit to 50 words)
5. Style Manual Used
6. Sections/Departments (list)
7. Number and Type of Articles (summarize)
8. Qualifications/Affiliations of Authors (summarize)
9. Advertisers and Types of Ads (list)
10. Abstracting/Indexing Availability (list)

Portfolio

Due November 21 in class. Each student will create and maintain a professional portfolio, which is a self-portrait of achievement and potential. Starting a portfolio now, and maintaining it over the course of MLIS program, will help with the Capstone course, where the portfolio is the exit requirement of the MLIS program.

The portfolio may be in paper or electronic format. Paper portfolios may be arranged in thin binders and an electronic portfolio might be a CD or a website.

Each portfolio contains a resume/CV and a goals statement. Other items vary according to the student's experiences, strengths, and career goals. The student chooses artifacts that best illustrate his/her potential as a professional. Examples might include papers or assignments from classes; handouts, newsletters, or other materials created as part of a job; photographs, or honor certificates.

Note: Evidence of thoughtful effort and congruence to the assignment in every aspect are required for full credit.

Objectives

As a result of fulfilling the portfolio requirement, the student will

- assess personal strengths and areas for improvement
- identify and document his/her professional growth throughout the program
- improve communication skills using text and graphics
- create a useful tool for job hunting

Required Portfolio Elements

- Introduction
- Table of Contents
- Professional Goals Statement
- Current Resume or CV
- Captioned materials (write a couple of sentences identifying each item included)
- Summary statement

Final Exam

Due December 7 by 12 noon as email attachment on BlazeVIEW. Name the file: lastname_final.doc. It is a comprehensive take-home and open-book essay exam that requires demonstrable and persuasive understanding of the "foundations" in Rubin and in other course readings. Additional details will be available on BlazeVIEW or in class.

Evaluation

General Grade Scale

A = excellent work, among the best work seen at the graduate level

B = satisfactory work, better than average work at the graduate level

C = honest attempt, needs moderate to major revisions to be satisfactory

D = perfunctory or missing work

Point Grade Scale

A=93-100

B=85-92

C=77-84

D=69-76

F=Below 69

Final Grade Scale

- A = always satisfactory, often excellent
- B = mostly satisfactory, occasionally excellent
- C = sometimes satisfactory, often needs revisions
- D = rarely satisfactory, often perfunctory, late or missing
- F = lacking even an attempt to learn or do, dishonesty, plagiarism.

Attendance

This is a face-to-face course and attendance is required. Students, however, are permitted to miss one half-day without penalty. Each half-day missed beyond the minimum will lower the final grade by one grade.

Academic Honesty

“Valdosta State University expects that graduate students will pursue their academic endeavors and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. All work that a student presents to satisfy course requirements should represent his or her own efforts, including appropriate use and acknowledgement of external sources. Specific regulations related to student conduct and behavior are contained in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics.”

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml>

Special Needs

Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the instructor at the first class meeting. Students not registered with Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room 2164, (229) 245-2498.