

Valdosta State University
Master of Library and Information Science
MLIS 7000: Foundations of Library and Information Science
Syllabus--Fall 2009
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.

Learning Outcomes

Students will

- 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.
Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. 5th 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	Introductory In-class viewing: Q & A with Librarian of Congress Billingsley LIS Job Sites LIS Web Sites Technology Overview Read Dewey's "The Profession" (available on Course Reserves or BlazeVIEW) for discussion Discuss OCLC's <i>Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources</i> http://www.oclc.org/reports/pdfs/Percept_all.pdf Ethics Readings: Introduction, Relationships with Colleagues, and "I prefer Ms. Jones" in Zipkowitz pages 1-15, 29-31 (on Course Reserves)
September 26-27	LIS News Reports Rubin Presentations: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Ethics Readings: Relationships with Patrons and "The walking time bomb" in Zipkowitz pages 41-43, 57-58 Guest Speakers: Graduates of MLIS Program
October 24-25	LIS News Reports Library Tour Report Rubin Presentations: Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Ethics Readings: Relationships with Things and "The gift horse" in Zipkowitz pages 63-67, 68-69 LIS Database Searching: Dawn Codigan
November 21-22	LIS News Reports Basbanes Presentations: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 Ethics Reading: "Aesthetic delight" in Zipkowitz pages 76-76 Guest Speaker: Randy Ceryian, Follette Library Services

Graded Assignments

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

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

NOTE: Late assignments will be accepted but will lose 5 points for any part of successive 24-hour periods, e.g., submitted 15 minutes late loses 5 points, 24 hours 2 minutes late loses 10 points, etc.

Participation

In-class participation is integral to the course, so it is expected that students contribute consistently. Following classroom guidelines and conscientious completion of in-class activity also will affect the grade. Additional details to be provided in Macon.

News Reports

LIS news reports, which will begin with the September weekend meeting, are informal and brief statements about timely items announced by various professional organizations or publications. In no more than 2 minutes, the oral report should make clear the source of the news and why the news was selected (i.e., implications for the profession, in addition to the effect on the student's job, career plans, or MLIS goals. Evidence of thorough attention to current happenings in LIS and conscientious preparation of the report are required. Sources of news include:

- American Library Association
- Association of College and Research Libraries
- Association of Research Libraries
- Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)
- *Library Journal*
- *American Libraries*
- Georgia Library Association or *Georgia Library Quarterly*
- Southeastern Library Association or *Southeastern Librarian*
- *Publisher's Weekly*
- An article in *The New York Times* or *The Wall Street Journal*

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 be provided at the first class meeting, when assignments also will be made.

Job Ads Analysis

Due September 24 by 11:59 a.m. on the BlazeVIEW assignment drop box. Name the file: lastname_jobads. 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 them
- 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
<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 11:59 a.m. as an attachment in BlazeVIEW email. *Do not submit in the assignment drop box.* 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. Name the file: lastname_tour.doc.

- 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 200 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 or to the impact of technology?

Journal Report and Database Search

Due November 16 by 11:59 a.m. on the BlazeVIEW assignment drop box. This assignment consists of two sections. The first pertains to LIS print journals and the second to LIS databases.

In the first part, analyze a recent print issue of one LIS journal from the list provided by completing the template below. Name the file lastname_journalreport.

Select one LIS scholarly journal 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*
- *College and Undergraduate Libraries*
- *College and Research Libraries*
- *Collection Management*
- *Internet Reference Sources Quarterly*
- *Information Technology and Libraries*
- *Journal of Education in Library and information Science*
- *Serials Review*

For the LIS journal examined complete the following (6 points each)

1. Name of Publication, Issue number, and pdf of cover
2. Publisher/Sponsor
3. Frequency of Publication
4. Aim/Purpose/Scope/Audience (no more than 25 words)
5. Style Manual Used in Articles
6. Sections/Departments (list them)
7. Number (average) and Types of Articles (no more than 25 words)
8. Qualifications/Affiliations of Authors (no more than 25 words)
9. Advertisers and Types of Ads (list them)
10. Abstracting/Indexing Availability (list them)

In the second part, search the LIS subscription databases on the Odum Library website for an article on a subject TBA and find two additional articles using subject headings search. Each answer in this part is worth 20 points. Note: APA style required for full credit. More details about this assignment will be provided in class.

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 or a folder 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 11:59 a.m. as attachment in BlazeVIEW email. Name the file: lastname_final. This is a comprehensive take-home open-book essay exam that requires clear, comprehensible, and certain understanding of the "foundations" in Rubin and in other course readings, plus the Billingsley interview. Additional details will be provided.

Late Assignments

Except for the final exam, assignments will be accepted late but with 5 point deductions per any part of 24-hour periods. So, an assignment submitted 2 minutes late will lose 5 points, an assignment submitted 29 hours late will lose 5 points, and so on. The final exam will be accepted late but with 10 point deductions per any part of 24-hour periods.

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.

Classroom Environment and Student Conduct

The classroom environment is to be respectful and professional, as are emails to any member of the class, including the professor, and discussion postings or announcements on BlazeVIEW. Guidelines are specified in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics.

http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/documents/SAF_Student_Handbook2009-050809.pdf

Note: The instructor may adapt or change this syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester.

UPDATED AUGUST 14, 2009