

Valdosta State University.

Syllabus: MLIS 7210

Summer Semester II: June & July 2015

Academic Libraries

Howard S. Carrier

Course Information:

Course Number: MLIS 7210 Section IA, crn 50155

Course Title: Academic Libraries

Course Description: [as per VSU 2014-2015 Graduate Catalogue] *An examination of the functions of the library within the higher education environment. The course promotes the Jeffersonian ideal of the library as the center of the university and explores administrative issues and service patterns specific to the academic library.*

Course Dates: Wednesday, 10th June 2015 – Tuesday, 28th July 2015.

Required Text: Although the course will involve both mandatory and suggested readings, there is no specific textbook which you are required to purchase. Readings will be made available to you through BlazeVIEW, or you will be advised how to access an electronic copy of a specific text using library resources. As work submitted for this class must comply with APA 6th edition, it may be useful for you to purchase a copy of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition, (if you do not already own a copy). This book is available from Amazon.com at the price of \$28.42. See: http://www.amazon.com/Publication-Manual-American-Psychological-Association/dp/1433805618/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1305123131&sr=8-1 However, other resources, such as Owl at Purdue, are also available to assist you with accurate APA citation: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Howard S. Carrier, LL.M., M.S.L.S.

Email: carriehs@jmu.edu Telephone: 540-568-5277

You are welcome to contact me by email or telephone at any time, regarding your studies for this course. I will reply to your email as soon as possible. If you contact me by telephone and I am not available, then please leave a voicemail with a telephone number at which you can be reached.

Course Philosophy:

As a professional librarian who chooses to work within the university, I view graduate students as colleagues within the academy, working towards the same goals as myself – the free exchange and dissemination of ideas, in order to better understand those issues that we have selected for study.

My aim is to teach this class from a practitioner's perspective. I am not a Library Science Professor; I am a practicing Librarian. Academic librarianship is my career. I hope to provide you with a thorough overview of this area of the librarian's profession, in order to better prepare you for your own career as a professional academic librarian, if that is a career path you hope to explore. However, for students who are interested in academic libraries but do not envisage a career in academic librarianship, the course will also contain opportunities to investigate the theoretical aspects of the relationship between academic libraries and the academy as a whole.

There is an old cliché about there being, “No such thing as a silly question,” which is certainly true for this class. All questions are welcomed and students are actively encouraged to share their thoughts, ideas, and opinions through the discussion board. It is imperative that we have lively, unfettered, on-topic conversations during this class. To this end: whilst there are no “silly” questions for this class, there **is** a definite obligation to ask and answer questions, and share your knowledge and ideas with your peers.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Determine the place of the library within the context of the university as a whole, and understand the role of the library in enabling teaching and academic research.
- Understand the structure and operation of a typical academic library in the United States and the roles of its units, administrators, librarians, and staff.
- Identify relevant variations in academic libraries based upon institution type.
- Contribute to professional discourse on topics pertaining to academic libraries and academic librarianship.
- Critically evaluate a core unit of an academic library.

Course Assessment:

Participation (specifically, discussion of lectures, reading, and professional presentations). 150 points. (Week 1 = 10 points; Weeks 2 through 7 = 20 points per week).

Professional Blog Assignment. 150 points. *About this assignment:* By the end of the semester we will have a detailed class blog which addresses contemporary issues in academic libraries. Grades will be based on individual, original content uploaded to the blog by students, and student responses to peers' postings.

Academic Library Unit Analysis Report. 200 points. *About this assignment:* Working individually, students will complete a technical report that critically analyzes a unit of an academic library.

Grades:

Maximum number of points possible = **500**.

Grade "A" = **450 to 500** points

Grade "B" = **400 to 449** points

Grade "C" = **350 to 399** points

Grade "D" = **300 to 349** points

Grade "F" = **0 to 299** points

Due Dates:

The first day of class is Wednesday, 10th June 2015. The last day of class is Tuesday, 28th July 2015.

The course is organized by weeks (Wednesday through Tuesday).

Please check the Course Schedule for a comprehensive list of due dates for all assignments for this course.

The final assignments for this class are due by noon (12pm) Eastern Daylight Time on Friday, 31st July 2015. The final assignments are comprised of both the Professional Blog Assignment and the Academic Library Unit Analysis Report.

Please contact me **as soon as possible** if any of your assignments will be late because of **illness, family emergency, or any other legitimate problem** that precludes you from submitting your work on time. In such instances, I will always work with you in determining an appropriate due date for submitting your assignment. **Caution:** Work which is submitted late in the absence of an approval from myself, or where no legitimate reason for late submission exists, will be subject to **heavy** penalties (**10%** of the total grade for an assignment will be

deducted for each 24 hour period it is late, culminating in an award of 0 points once the assignment becomes more than 72 hours overdue).

Course Policies:

Participation (Discussions)

A highly significant portion of the points available for the class is devoted to student participation (in fact, 30% of your final grade for the class is based upon participation). This should be information enough to suggest that active participation in the class is a vital part of your progress within the class. Each week there will either be a lecture delivered in a video format by myself, or a professional presentation provided by academic librarians who have kindly agreed to provide a guest lecture for our class, or a combination of a lecture from me and a guest presentation. The lectures and presentations will be supported by required reading. Your participation grade for each week of the class will be calculated based upon your responses to the lectures, presentations, and reading, in the form of your original postings to the relevant discussion threads in BlazeVIEW.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in this class. As prospective experts and leaders in your fields of expertise, it is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty, and how to avoid it.

Students should familiarize themselves with Valdosta State University's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures, available at:

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

Plagiarism: Sadly, it is my experience that many instances of plagiarism occur as a result of carelessness. However, carelessness is no defense to this serious academic honesty offence.

Please be aware that plagiarism has serious consequences (in this instance, the award of 0 points for any assignment containing plagiarized content). Remember: if in doubt, always cite. You are extremely unlikely to suffer any sort of penalty for over-citation! Better that, than an accusation of plagiarism.

You should review this guide to avoiding plagiarism:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/1/>

Cheating: I will not tolerate any form of deliberate cheating in my classes (whether or not this conduct also involves plagiarism). If such an instance arises (and I sincerely hope that it does not), the consequences are straightforward: I will award the student(s) concerned a grade of F for the class, and submit a Report of Academic Dishonesty to the Student Conduct Office.

Accessibility

This course will be administered in full compliance with Valdosta State University's policies regarding accessibility. For further information, please see the Access Office's website at

<http://www.valdosta.edu/access/index.shtml> Please contact me if there is an issue regarding accessibility that you wish to bring to my attention.

A final word:

It is my fervent hope that you find this class to be an academically stimulating and rewarding experience. I am excited to be the Course Instructor for MLIS 7210, and look forward to discussing class topics with students. It is rare for an instructor to be able to teach a class that directly addresses his or her own profession. I am pleased to have the opportunity to do this, and hope that the class benefits from being taught from a practitioner's perspective. Along the way we will encounter colleagues of mine who will also share their insight and experience.

I am aware that online classes can sometimes cause students to feel more isolated than is the case with classroom based instruction. To counter this, I encourage you to interact actively with the course materials and participate in discussions with all members of the class via the discussion boards. Also, if, at any point, you have any questions or concerns about the class or your progress, then please **do not** hesitate to contact me (see contact details in the "Instructor Information" section, above.)

Let's hope this turns out to be a rewarding summer semester.

See you at the discussion boards!

Howard.

