Valdosta State University
Master of Library and Information Science Program
Spring 2010

Syllabus: MLIS 7000 Foundations of Library and Information Science

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This course offers an introduction to the field of library and information science, its history, and future directions. Students will become familiar with information theory, the disciplines and sub-disciplines that make up library and information science, and the ethical practices and standards that inform the field.

Learning Outcomes
Students will:
- Discuss the major topics, concepts, history, and issues of library and information science (LIS)
- Explore the functions, service perspective, and ethics of the LIS profession
- Explain the role of technology in LIS practice
- Describe the similarities and differences among types of libraries and information centers
- Use LIS vocabulary appropriately
- 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 communication skills

Course format:
Students will meet face to face on Saturday January 23 and Sunday January 24, 2010. All other course meetings and activities will be conducted through BlazeView, Valdosta State University's electronic course management system.

Required course texts and resources:

Rubin R. (2004). *Foundations of Library and Information Science, 2nd ed*. NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc.

Case, D. (2002) *Looking for Information: A survey of research on information seeking, needs, and behavior.* Academic Press/Elsevier. Chapters 4 and 5.
- Available on e-reserve through the Odum Library.

APA Style Manual, 6th ed. (2009). If you have the first printing of the 6th edition, be sure to get the corrections from the APA website.
- Basics of APA style are available at the Purdue University Online Writing Lab [OWL] website: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/.

One of the titles listed in the online book club activity described in the detailed syllabus. Borrow via interlibrary loan or look for a used copy on Amazon. Do not purchase your book until you are assigned to your book club group.

Weekly readings from the LIS professional and academic literature as indicated in the detailed syllabus. Articles will be available via the Odum Library's e-journals collection or on e-reserves or links will be provided in the course website.

Subscribe to American Libraries Direct listserv.
American Libraries Direct (AL Direct): An electronic newsletter sent by e-mail every Wednesday *freely available to everyone by request; AL Direct* calls attention to new items on the ALA website (including *American Libraries* news stories, press releases and other news from ALA divisions and offices, and a calendar of events), as well as practical, informative, and entertaining library-related news and tidbits found elsewhere online. Sign up for *AL Direct*: http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/aldirect/aldirect.cfm

Optional (purchasing this book is NOT required):

Fourie, Denise K. and David R. Dowell. (2009). *Libraries in the Information Age: An Introduction and Career Exploration, 2nd ed.* Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited/ABC-CLIO.

ASSIGNMENTS – brief descriptions, full details available in Assignments section of course website.

Discussion board participation – weekly topics = 20 points

LIS Journals Analysis = 10 points
- Analyze recent print or digital issues of three LIS journals using the questions given in the assignment.

Library Tour Report = 10 points
- Interview a working librarian and tour the library where the librarian works, then document your interview and tour in a short essay.

Job Ad Analysis = 10 points
- For the period of one month, monitor two of the sources of LIS job announcements and analyze your findings.

Ethics and Standards group project =15 points
- Work in groups to explore the ethics of one particular professional group within the LIS professions. Write and submit individual reaction papers.

Online book club group project = 10 points
- Read, analyze, and discuss one of the titles given in the course website with your group members. Share your experience with entire class.

Review Essay = 20 points total (part 1 = 5 points, part 2 = 15 points)
- Investigate some aspect of libraries, information studies, or the information professions of personal interest.

Portfolio Preparation = 5 points
- Create a professional portfolio that you will build throughout your time at VSU and submit as a requirement of MLIS 7800 at the end of your studies

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance is required at the face to face meeting. Other than during the face to face meeting, course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is the student's responsibility to follow the course calendar and participate via BlazeView as indicated at the appropriate times. It is in the student's best interest to log into the BlazeView course delivery system daily to check for announcements and e-mail messages related to the course.

Late work: All course work is due on the date and time indicated on the course calendar. A grace period of 24 hours is offered without penalty. After 24 hours one point will be deducted from the student's score for every additional 24 hours or increment thereof that the work is late.

Academic Honesty at Valdosta State University: "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 behaviors are contained in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct." See also:
 http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml

Special Needs – if you have a documented disability please contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities: http://www.valdosta.edu/access/ Once your request for accommodation is submitted please contact the instructor to discuss accommodations or modifications of course content and delivery.

Student Conduct – All interactions related to this class are to be conducted respectfully and professionally whether during face to face meetings, online interactions, small group work, e-mail or telephone communication according to the Student Code of Conduct as presented in the Valdosta State University Student Handbook, beginning on page 60:
http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/documents/Student_Handbook_2009-10v1.pdf