

Valdosta State University  
Master of Library and Information Science  
MLIS 7130 Humanities Information Services  
Syllabus--Summer 2009  
Three Credit Hours

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### Description

Examination of processes and resources used to provide reference services in the humanities disciplines. The fields of history, literature and language, music, philosophy, religion, and the visual and performing arts will be considered. Prerequisite: MLIS 7000 or consent of the instructor.

### Objectives and Outcomes

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

- Explain humanities information-seeking behavior, including the role of technology
- Identify key factors that affect accessing information in humanities disciplines
- Discuss the impact of digitization in the humanities
- Utilize print and electronic resources in the humanities
- Identify the characteristics of the literature and the structure of information in the humanities
- Assess information needs in the humanities and describe how reference librarians can meet those needs using effective search strategies
- Write research guides intended for undergraduate courses in the humanities

### Required Materials

- Ron Blazek and Elizabeth Aversa. *The Humanities: A Selective Guide to Information Sources*, 5th ed. Libraries Unlimited, 2000. ISBN: 1-56308-602-6 (paperback)



- Headphones with attached microphone for use with Live Classroom software. An inexpensive one will be fine. Many are available for \$10-\$15.
- Additional materials will be posted in Odum Library Course Reserves or on WebCT

## Assignments

- |  |     |              |
|--|-----|--------------|
| • Assignment 1: Research Paper             | 25% | Due: June 29 |
| • Assignment 2: Course Guide               | 50% | Due: July 22 |
| • Assignment 3: Reality Reference and Test | 25% | Due: July 29 |

## Assignment Synopses

- **Research Paper:** A scholarly essay that synthesizes assigned readings on humanities information-seeking behavior, including the use of technology
- **Course Guide:** A research guide to reference sources for a humanities course
- **Reality Reference/Test:** Ready reference questions that require identifying humanities sources in the text, history chapter, and on the Internet and that ask for short answers pertaining to additional course material

## Additional Assignment Information

- Details about each assignment will be provided on WebCT
- Access to VSU Odum Library or an academic library is required for Assignment 2
- Writing proficiency will be factored into Assignments 1 and 2
- Assignments are to be submitted as an attachment in WebCT email
- Assignments are due by 12 noon on the scheduled days
- No late assignments will be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances arise
- Conflicts with employers or other courses do not qualify as extenuating circumstances
- No rewrites or revisions will be offered

## Attendance

- This is a Web-delivered course with no required face-to-face meetings
- Live Classroom sessions will be scheduled when necessary

## 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 = unacceptable, perfunctory or missing work

### Points Grade Scale

- A = 93-100  
B = 85-92  
C = 77-84  
D = 69-76  
F = 68 and below

### 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

## VSU Policies

### 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>

### Accommodations

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 229/219-1348 (TTY). See <http://www.valdosta.edu/access/intro.shtml>.