

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7580 Digital Libraries
Spring 2008 - Syllabus
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:

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Course Description:

Prerequisite or corequisite: MLIS 7000 or consent of the instructor. Current trends in digital libraries research and practice. The impact of digital libraries on society will be emphasized.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion the student will be able to:

- Explain basic concepts of digital libraries
- Develop an understanding of digitization, preservation, and dissemination of digital content
- Evaluate processes to develop a digital library system
- Evaluate current trends in digital library technologies
- Assess digital library technologies
- Make informed digital library technology decisions

Class Activities:

Class activities include a set of readings, assignments and quizzes, online discussions, and a term project. Students will complete weekly assignments that provide an opportunity to demonstrate familiarity with the course content. Assignments will provide students with conceptual and practical understanding of digital libraries and their impact on society and traditional libraries. Self-test quizzes will help students measure their understanding of the course content. Students should participate in online meetings to discuss and share their opinions of the week's topics, assignments, and readings. The purpose of the term project is to allow students to demonstrate their understanding of digitization, preservation, and dissemination of digital material covered in the class by designing a simple digital library application or creating collections for a digital library application (e.g., Greenstone) that can handle real-world data and address metadata management issues. Term project report should document the process of content production from digitization to its dissemination and brief evaluation of the project.

Textbook:

There is no required textbook for the class.

Suggested Reading:

- Michael Lesk, "*Understanding Digital Libraries*". Morgan Kaufmann Publisher. 2005. 2nd Edition ISBN: 1558609245.

Grading:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Participation: 10%
- Assignments: 25%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Readings & Discussions: 25%
- Term Project: 30%

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- A – 91 - 100
- B – 81 - 90
- C – 71 - 80
- D – 61 - 70
- F – 0 - 60

Course requirements:**Participation (10%)**

1. The course is designed for online delivery.
2. Students should participate in online meetings to discuss and share their opinions of the week's topics, assignments, and readings.
3. Date and time information for online meetings will be made available on WebCT.
4. All questions regarding content, assignments, quizzes, and readings should be posted to class discussion board on WebCT.
5. Students are expected to answer such questions posted by their classmates and it will count towards their grade.

Assignments (25%) & Quizzes (10%)

- Students will complete weekly assignments that provide an opportunity to demonstrate familiarity with the course content.
- Collaboration on homework assignments is encouraged. You may consult outside reference materials, other students, or the instructor. However, all of your solutions should reflect your understanding of the subject matter at the time of writing.
- Assignments will provide students with conceptual and practical understanding of digital libraries.

Self-test quizzes are designed to help students measure their understanding of the course content.

Readings & Discussions (10%)

There are also required, supplemental readings to cover broad areas of digital libraries planning and design, collection development and digitization, social, cultural, and policy issues, and current trends. These readings will be made available to students through WebCT as pdf files or hyperlinks to original material. It is expected that each student will have the ability to download and open up both pdf files and Word (doc) files.

Students should post their views about each article at the designated area on the message board for discussion.

Term Project (30%)

- Students are free to choose the topics of personal interest.
- Instructor approval is required to start a class project.
- The instructor will also provide a list of possible projects for your selection.

Technological Requirements:

As this is an online course that also focuses its attention on online information services, students must have almost daily access to the Internet. That access will use email and the web (through the student's browser) for class-related communication. As mentioned above, it is expected that each student will be capable of dealing with pdf files and Word documents (doc files).

Course communications will use . . .

1. WebCT Vista email system and discussion board are official means of communication in this class. In addition, VSU email system may be used alternatively in case WebCT Vista fails.
2. A WebCT Vista website, used by the instructor to make links available for each unit of the topical units

Distance Learning Support:

A VSU reference librarian, Ms. Shiloh Smith, is responsible for coordinating library services for off-campus VSU students. She may be reached by email at shismith@valdosta.edu or by phone at 229-245-3717. An online guide for distance education students is on the Odum Library Web site at <http://www.valdosta.edu/library/services/distanceeducation.shtml>. Chat reference is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/library/ask.shtml>.

VSU Policies:

Please become aware of and be guided by these VSU policies.

- Access Office for Students with Disabilities: <http://www.valdosta.edu/ssp/index.shtml>
- Academic Dishonesty, p. 254 of Graduate Catalog, 2006/07: http://www.valdosta.edu/catalog/0607/grad/grad_251-280.pdf
- Student Code of Conduct: http://www.valdosta.edu/stulife/handbook/pages_39-48.pdf
- Equal Opportunity Statement: <http://www.valdosta.edu/eopma/eos.shtml>
- Sexual Harassment: <http://www.valdosta.edu/legal/shp.html>