

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE**  
**MLIS 7800 Capstone**  
**Syllabus—Summer Semester 2010**  
Three Credit Hours

**Instructor:**

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**Course Description**

Capstone is required for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MLIS degree. Emphasis will be on synthesis of knowledge, honing writing and presentation skills, and creating a professional development plan.

**Course Objectives**

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Synthesize knowledge gained throughout the course of study and apply that knowledge to the consideration of current professional issues.
2. Make an effective professional presentation.
3. Write a paper of publishable quality.
4. Create a professional development plan.
5. Navigate the job hunting process.
6. Articulate personal professional goals.

**Course Prerequisite or Corequisite:** Taken during the final semester of study

**Required Text**

Rubin, Richard E. *Foundations of Library and Information Science*. New York: Neal Schuman. The edition you used in *Foundations* will be fine.

**Assignments**

**Capstone paper:** You will prepare a paper of publishable quality on a topic of your choice, with the topic subject to instructor approval. Paper length and style will depend on topic and on requirements of appropriate publication venues. Paper topic selection is due June 20. Draft due July 21. Final paper is due on the first exam day, July 29.

**Capstone presentation:** You will do a conference-style presentation about your research proposal for your Capstone Paper in Wimba Classroom. You will use PowerPoint slides to illustrate points and information. Your presentation will answer the following: Why

you selected the topic? Your approach to research. Your research questions or objectives. What you hope to find out. Make your presentation asynchronously and archive it.

**Portfolio:** You will update and present your portfolio at the end of the semester. Discussion and sharing of portfolio issues will occur in BlazeVIEW, as necessary. Feedback will be provided by the instructor and classmates. Revised portfolios are due on July 29, 2010, either in the Assignment Module or by mail or package service. After grading, notebook portfolios will be returned by mail or package service.

**Professional Development Plan:** Each student will create and record a personal plan for professional development. For students who need to seek employment, this will include a detailed job-hunting plan. For all students, this will include plans for solidifying and updating their professional knowledge in the two-year period following graduation. Submit via BlazeVIEW no later than June 27, 2010.

**Reflection on MLIS Experience:** Each student will prepare an essay that reflects on and evaluates his or her experience with the MLIS degree program. The essay will include the student's determination of strengths and weaknesses within the program. Submit via BlazeVIEW no later than July 4, 2010.

**Current Issues Discussions:** There will be five current issues discussions lasting three days. We will chose topics for discussion of a current issue in LIS during the first week of class. We will consider topics that have appeared in LIS or popular literature during the past year. For each topic, you will identify pieces of published literature that state one or more sides of the issue. Your comments should add to and guide the discussion. Each of your postings does not require a source. The discussions are not bibliographic exercises, but insightful discussions of issues from your perspective as a soon-to-graduate student in the program.

### Requirements

|              |     |                            |     |
|--------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|
| Presentation | 25% | Prof Dev Plan              | 10% |
| Paper        | 25% | Reflective Essay           | 10% |
| Portfolio    | 15% | Current Issues Discussions | 15% |

### Grading

#### General Grading 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

**Late** work is dropped one letter grade

### **Final Grading 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

### **Calendar and Agenda**

This is primarily a BlazeVIEW class with sessions in Wimba Classroom.

Weeks are numbered Monday to Sunday.

- Week 1: Thursday June 10-Sunday June 13  
Introductions in discussion module  
Assignments for the term  
Identify Current Issues Topics  
Sunday, June 13, First Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 2: June 14-June 16, First Current Issue Discussion  
June 16, Second Current Issue Topic posted  
June 17-19, Second Current Issue Discussion  
June 19, Third Current Issue Topic posted  
Sunday, June 20, Capstone Paper Topics due
- Week 3: June 20-June 22, Third Current Issue Discussion  
June 22, Fourth Current Issue Topic posted  
June 23-June 25, Fourth Current Issue Discussion  
June 25, Fifth Current Issue Topic posted  
June 26-June 28, Fifth Current Issue Discussion  
Sunday, June 27, Professional Development Plan due
- Week 4: June 29-July 1 & July 3-July 4, Wimba Classroom Practice  
Friday, July 2, July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Observed. No classes.  
Sunday, July 4, Experience Essay due
- Week 5: Monday, July 5, Midterm of Summer II  
July 5-July 10, Capstone Presentations in Wimba Classroom  
Sunday, July 11, Capstone Presentations due in Wimba Classroom
- Week 6: No assignments due. Continue work on Capstone Paper.
- Week 7: Wednesday, July 21, Paper drafts due
- Week 8: Tuesday, July 27, Last Class Day

Wednesday, July 28, Dead Day  
Thursday, July 29, Portfolio due and Paper due  
Friday, July 30, Graduate School Commencement

*Deadline for dropping the class without academic penalty is Midterm.*

### **Academic Dishonesty**

“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*.

### **Special Needs Statement**

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of our institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as the Title IX section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students not registered with the Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room 2164, 229-245-2498.

### **Attendance**

This is a Web-delivered course. All assignments and discussions utilize WebCT Vista. Your participation is integral to the course design; therefore, it is expected that students will make consistent, contributive participation a high priority. **If you are compelled to miss a scheduled assignment, you must negotiate a mutually acceptable alternative with the instructor to make a passing grade.**