

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE**  
**MLIS 7800 Capstone**  
**Syllabus—Spring Semester 2011**  
Three Credit Hours

**Instructor:**

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**Course Description**

Capstone is a final requirement 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 January 30. Draft due April 28. Final paper is due on the second exam day, May 5

**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. Archived presentations due no later than March 6, 2011

**Portfolio:** You will update, present and discuss your portfolio. Discussion and sharing of portfolio issues will occur in BlazeVIEW. Feedback will be provided by the instructor and classmates. Revised portfolios are due on the last class day, May 2, 2011, either in the Assignment Module or by mail or package service. After grading and review by other faculty members, 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 February 27, 2011.

**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 April 3, 2011.

**Current Issues Discussions:** There will be five current issues discussions lasting one week. We will chose topics for discussion of current issues in LIS during the first week of class. We will consider topics that have appeared in LIS or popular literature during the past several years. 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. Briefly summarize the class discussions on each topic in the Assignment Module no later than March 6, 2011.

### 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: January 10-14  
Introductions in discussion module  
Assignments for the term  
Identify Current Issues Topics  
Sunday, January 16, First Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 2: **Monday, January 17, Martin Luther King Day.** University closed.  
January 18-23, First Current Issue Discussion  
January 23, Second Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 3: January 24-30, Second Current Issue Discussion  
January 30, Third Current Issue Topic posted  
Sunday, January 30, Paper Topics due
- Week 4: January 31-February 6, Third Current Issue Discussion  
February 6, Fourth Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 5: February 7-13, Fourth Current Issue Discussion  
September 19, Fifth Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 6: February 14-20, Fifth Current Issue Discussion
- Week 7: February 21-27, Begin Wimba Classroom Practice  
Sunday, February 27, Professional Development Plan due
- Week 8: **Mid-term of semester, Thursday, March 3- Last date to drop**  
February 28-March 6, Capstone Presentations in Wimba Classroom  
Sunday, March 6, Current Issues Summary due
- Week 9: March 7-13, Capstone Presentations in Wimba Classroom  
Sunday, March 13, Capstone Presentations in Wimba Classroom completed
- Week 10: **Spring Break, March 14-18**

- Week 11: Sunday, April 3 Experience Essay due
- Weeks 12, 13, & 14: No assignments due
- Week 15: Sunday, April 17, Capstone paper drafts due
- Week 16: No assignments due
- Week 16: Monday, April 25, Portfolios due  
Thursday, April 28, Capstone paper due
- Week 17: May 2 Last Day of Classes  
May 6 Graduate 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.**

### **SafeAssign**

By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to SafeAssign, a tool within BlazeVIEW. For

more information on the use of SafeAssign at VSU see [SafeAssign for Students](http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/SafeAssignforStudents.shtml) (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/SafeAssignforStudents.shtml>).