VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7999 Information Literacy
SYLLABUS
Spring Semester 2007
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:
Anita Ondrusek, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
MLIS Program
Valdosta State University
Office Phone: 229-333-5860
E-mail: alondrus@valdosta.edu

Catalog Description
An examination of the information literacy movement from its origins in library instruction to the
learning theories and teaching practices that shape its current standards. The emphasis will be on
the information literacy model as defined by the Association of College and Research Libraries
for academic libraries and applying that model to instructional development.

Course Outcomes
At the conclusion of the course, the students will be able to:

- Articulate rationales and principles driving the library instruction movement
- Identify teaching methods and learning theories associated with the current library
  instruction movement
- Describe the differing groups of library users served by instructional programs
- Locate the current standards that serve as the basis for developing instructional programs
- Locate sources that provide examples of instructional methods suitable for librarians
- Create lesson plans based upon instructional objectives and learning theories
- Deliver an instructional presentation based on those theories/objectives apropos to a
  particular library user group
- Recognize/realize own personal learning and teaching preferences/styles

About This Course . . .
In academic circles, information literacy has become the centerpiece for the continuing discourse
on the role that librarians should assume in the educational spheres of instruction, curriculum, and
faculty development. Its primary goal is to prepare graduates to find, evaluate, and use
information as "citizens" in an increasingly information-rich society. School librarians have
committed to this same concept under the name "Information Power." In public libraries, the
concept of "lifelong learning" forms the basis for many programs such as computer training and
reading clubs, again, aiming to empower people as information users. In addition, public
librarians are often the mediators in helping the library's users to retrieve and interpret
information needed for academic, work, or personal projects. Practitioners tend to focus on the
instructional aspects of information literacy, often using the term "information literacy
instruction" when discussing this topic. How people learn, how librarians can help them learn,
what professional organizations have done to codify the library's role in this process, and the
program development issues to be considered in order to bring all these elements together provide
the content for this course.

Textbook

Grassian Esther S., and Joan Kaplowitz. *Information Literacy Instruction: Theory and Practice*.
Neal-Schuman, 2001.

NOTE: Five textbooks will be available for purchase through the VSU Bookstore and may be purchased online. Neal-Schuman sells the text for $65 plus about $10 shipping charges. The VSU Odum Library's copy of the text will be placed on reserve for the duration of the course. The textbook contains a CD-ROM. If you obtain the book second-hand minus the CD-ROM, that's fine. The WebCT/Vista 7999 Information Literacy course pages will include comparable supplementary materials.

A copy of the textbook (listed above) is on Reserve for this semester in the Odum Library on the Valdosta State University campus. By mutual agreement between the MLIS Program and the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) office in the Odum Library, required textbooks for courses offered this semester will not be available for interlibrary loan. ILL staff in the Odum Library are **not** responsible for obtaining books that are required texts for any VSU student during any given semester.

Instructor Availability & Support
Dr. Ondrusek checks her e-mail and telephone messages at least once daily throughout normal business hours (M-F, 9-5). By institutional policy, instructors are asked to communicate with students online through VSU accounts (WebCT/Vista and BlazeNet e-mail). If you are registered for the course as a Continuing Education student, a BlazeNet account will be assigned to you for this semester. Your BlazeNet login and password serve as your WebCT/Vista login and password. The BlazeNet login page is at http://luminis.valdosta.edu/cp/home/loginf.

All discussion posts and assignment submissions for this online course must be sent via WebCT/Vista. In the case that we encounter technical problems with the WebCT software, group e-mail assignments will be routed through BlazeNet. Opening and finding the MLIS 7999 Information Literacy BlazeNet account is, therefore, required. For instructions on using a student BlazeNet account, go to: http://www.valdosta.edu/blazenet/email-trans/help_stu.html.

Attendance
This is a Web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings. Some activities may require synchronous online sessions (e.g., Live Classroom, see the section below on "Technical Requirements").

Graded Requirements*

Discussion Participation	50%
Discussion Leader Report**	15%
Teaching Presentation***	30%
Peer Review of a Classmate's Presentation	5%

*Specifics on each graded requirement are included in the "Course Calendar" document
** Only one Leader Report (summary of a small group Discussion) per student required
***See the "Technical Requirements for the Teaching Presentation" on the next page

Grading

On individual course requirements, the instructor may assign plus and minus grades using this numerical scale:

A = 4.0   A minus = 3.7   B plus = 3.5   B = 3.0   B minus = 2.7   C plus = 2.5   C = 2.0

Your final grade will be one of these letter grades:

  A   Exceptionally exceeds minimum standards
  B   Exceeds minimum standards
  C   Meets minimum standards
  D   Barely meets minimum standards
  F   Fails to meet minimum standards

Submitting Assignments

Deadlines for each graded activity are clearly stated on the MLIS 7999 Information Literacy Course Calendar and on the Graded Requirements document posted on the course home page on WebCT/Vista. Missing a deadline for any activity will result in a reduction in your grade unless you can arrange a mutually acceptable alternative with the instructor.

Week-to-Week Assignments

Specific assignments along with due dates are listed in the Week-to-Week Assignments folder on the MLIS 7999 Information Literacy WebCT/Vista course page.

Technical Requirements for the Teaching Presentation

To fulfill the Teaching Presentation assignment, you will be expected to demonstrate your teaching abilities to a "live" audience. "Live Classroom" is one option for giving your presentation. It is a distance presentation program available through WebCT/Vista. It allows the presenter to show PowerPoint slides or HTML pages or go "live" on the Web while speaking into a microphone from your own computer. The other distance students can log in (as in a Chat room session) and receive your audio and visual instruction. It's easy to use and Dr. Ondrusek will orient all students to it prior to the teaching presentation sessions. It requires an inexpensive headset and works with DSL or a dial-up modem of at least 56K. The presentation can be archived so that you and your classmates can view it again.

You may opt to have yourself videotaped as you teach. This will require that you assemble a "live" audience to be your learners. It can be a real situation (e.g., taped in a library where you work or make arrangements to do you presentation) or a simulated environment (e.g., taped in your home with friends or family playing the audience). If you choose the latter, the audience must fit your lesson (e.g., if your presentation is aimed at senior citizens, then you need volunteer audience members from that age group). Dr. Ondrusek will help you find a library to host your presentation, if needed, and she will be responsible for streaming your video so that your classmates can view it through a WebCT/Vista link.

Your final choice is to create an online instructional tutorial. If you select this method, your production must contain all the elements required in the "live" presentations including audio narration (using software such as Camtasia or Captivate). Full details for this option are outlined on the Weeks 9 & 10 section of the "Course Calendar." Your Web productions must display properly on any Web browser and be suitable for student (not professional) viewing. Familiarity with the software is your responsibility. Dr. Ondrusek will not provide instruction on how to produce a tutorial and she will not edit such presentations to correct production quirks.

Technical Requirements in General
All class materials will be placed on a password-protected Web site using the WebCT/Vista course management program. If you are a new Vista user, go to the Vista help pages at http://www.valdosta.edu/vista/. On the right margin are "Self Help" links. View the "Getting Started" tutorial first. Then return to the Vista page and login using your BlazeNet email ID and password.

To meet all class requirements, you should also be prepared to: (1) check the WebCT/Vista course homepage several times a week, sometimes daily, if a course discussion is in progress; (2) participate fully in online discussions through timely and relevant postings; (3) locate any adjunct references needed for your discussion submissions or your paper using the GALILEO databases, or a comparable system, and download or print these out (this requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer); and (4) keep electronic backup copies of each assignment and project you submit.

All assignments must be submitted using a program compatible with VSU supported products. MS Word is the preferred document format and PowerPoint is the preferred presentation software. The OpenSource project makes available a free set of programs called the OpenOffice suite which includes a word processing program compatible with MS Word. You can download the entire OpenOffice Suite from the Web site <http://www.openoffice.org/>. WordPerfect 12 allows you to save your documents as Word documents. If you are using a lower version of WordPerfect or the OpenOffice word processor, **save your documents in Rich Text Format (rtf)**.

The university's Information Technology department provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU's email and other sources. The IT Help Desk is at http://www.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/guides/ and their phone hot line is 229-245-4357.

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://books.valdosta.edu/dist/dmain.html. A brochure for off-campus students provides valuable links to the reference desk and to the library's rather new reference chat service.

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*. Please acquaint yourself with the full VSU policy on academic dishonesty at http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/Academic_Dishonesty.html.

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 the 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 (tx).

Student Agreement
Enrollment in this class signifies that the student has agreed to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that the instructor may adapt or change this syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester.