

Valdosta State University  
Master of Library and Information Science Program  
Fall 2011

### **Syllabus: MLIS 7422 Programming for Children**

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**Catalog Description:** An overview of the nature, philosophy, design and delivery of library programs for youngsters from birth through early teens. Includes principles of planning, implementing, promoting, and evaluating programs for this age group. Emphasis will be on creative arts including storytime and storytelling, puppetry, reading incentive programs, and other age-specific activities.

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Students will:

- Create library programs for young audiences aligned with principles of child development, ethnic diversity, and special (physical or psychological) needs
- Conduct a community analysis to assess local needs, tastes, and resources pertinent to developing library programs for children and young teens
- Design program presentations based on a variety of creative arts techniques
- Deliver or perform program presentations in a style attractive to young audiences
- Describe a physical environment conducive to conducting or hosting programs for youngsters
- Engage with other participants or stakeholders (e.g., colleagues, parents, care-givers or child care agencies, other professionals involved with child welfare) in program planning and implementation
- Evaluate a library program for children and young teens based on audience needs and interests in consort with the goals of the library

#### **Course format**

This is a Web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings. Several meetings will require synchronous online sessions using Live Classroom. All Live Classroom sessions will be archived (recorded) and will remain available on the BlazeVIEW course page for the duration of the course.

#### **Required course texts and resources**

The required textbook for this course is the Georgia Public Library Service's Children's and Youth Services Staff Handbook (2002) This is published as a pdf and is available free of charge at <http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/child/childmanual.pdf>.

Readings from LIS professional and academic literature will be assigned weekly. Articles will be available via GALILEO Scholar, the Odum Library's e-journals collection or on Odum Library e-reserve, or links will be provided in the course website.

*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* [APA Style Manual], 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (2009). If you have the first printing of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, be sure to get the corrections from the APA website.

- Basics of APA style are available at the Purdue University Online Writing Lab [OWL] website: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> and at <http://www.apastyle.org> but students will be held to the standards given in the actual APA Style Manual.

### **Recommended resources:**

*If you are completely new to children's librarianship, this book may be helpful:*  
Steele, Anita T. *Bare Bones Children's Services: Tips for Public Library Generalists*. American Library Association, 2001. ISBN: 0838907911 (Paperback)

*If you joined this class to gain experience in storytelling:*  
Haven, Kendall, and MaryGay Ducey *Crash Course in Storytelling*. Libraries Unlimited, 2007. ISBN: 1-59158-399-3 (Paperback) MLIS 7422 Syllabus – Fall 2010 pg. 2

There are also many books listed on the Pathfinder located on the course BlazeVIEW site entitled "Programming for Children and Young Teens: Where to Find Ideas and Techniques."

**ASSIGNMENTS:** brief descriptions, full details are available in the Assignments section of the course website.

Discussion Board Participation → weekly topics = 20 points

Youth Environment Observations = 20 points

- Select two settings where children or young teens gather (no classroom observations). Describe and illustrate the age group(s) you observed and what you noticed about their behaviors from a developmental perspective.

Community Analysis Report = 20 points

- Select a library of interest to you and describe the community around that library. Focusing on the needs of the children make recommendations for youth programming based upon what you found out about the community.

Stakeholder Letter = 10 points

- Based the demographics of the library you studied for the Community Analysis Report compose a letter in which you seek sponsorship for a special program that your research shows will fill a need among children in this community. The program must be one that could be carried out by a youth librarian.

Creative Program = 20 points

- This assignment has three components. First you will design and present a program, then you will provide a follow-up activity to your performance that gives each youngster a chance to create something along the same theme as your program, and finally you will describe the "real experience" of that program to your classmates during a Live Classroom presentation.

Self-Evaluation = 5 points

- Evaluate your own project.

Peer-Evaluation = 5 points

- Evaluate a classmate's project.

## Course Grades

Students can earn a maximum of 100 points in this course as indicated above. Course grades will be awarded as follows:

- A: 90 – 100 points
- B: 80 – 89 points
- C: 70 – 79 points
- D: 60 – 69 points
- F: fewer than 60 points.

## COURSE POLICIES

**General Assumptions:** This course is designed for the online learning environment and all course activities will take place inside the course website in BlazeView or on your own in the environment indicated in the assignment descriptions. Distance learning support is available from VSU. Please see: <http://www.valdosta.edu/vista/students.shtml>

Required readings are summarized on the course calendar and will be supplemented weekly. A full updated list will be posted each week in the weekly folders. All readings other than the textbook chapters are accessible through GALILEO or Valdosta State University's Odum Library online journal access or through public access websites or through Odum Library course e-reserves or will be provided inside the course website in pdf format.

Students are expected to be able to obtain materials from GALILEO and the Odum Library's electronic collections and resources or their equivalents as part of their successful participation in this course. An online services guide for distance education students is on the Odum Library web site at <http://www.valdosta.edu/library/services/distanceeducation.shtml> Students should feel free to ask a local librarian for help learning to navigate GALILEO.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required at the face to face meeting. Other than during the face to face meeting, course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is the student's responsibility to follow the course calendar and participate via BlazeView as indicated at the appropriate times. It is in the student's best interest to log into the BlazeView course delivery system daily to check for announcements and e-mail messages related to the course.

One or more meetings will require synchronous online sessions using Live Classroom. All Live Classroom sessions will be archived (recorded) and will remain available on the BlazeVIEW course page for the duration of the course.

**Communication:** The course Faculty Office discussion board will be available for the duration of the semester. Please post course-related questions that may be relevant to your classmates on the discussion board. Please read the Faculty Office discussion board regularly. If you have a personal question please send it to the instructor via BlazeView course e-mail. If you would like to speak with the instructor by telephone please ask for an appointment via e-mail so a mutually appropriate time can be determined. If you are in Valdosta and would like to meet face to face please send a message via e-mail to arrange a time. If I am on campus and the instructor's office door is open please feel free to come in.

By institutional policy, instructors are asked to communicate with students online through VSU accounts (BlazeVIEW and BlazeNet e-mail). If you are registered for the course as a non-degree student, a BlazeNet account will be assigned to you for this semester. All discussion posts and assignment submissions for this online course must be sent via BlazeVIEW.

**Submitting written assignments:** All written work must be submitted as attachments to the assignment modules in the BlazeView course website using Word or rtf formats. If you use any word processing program other than Microsoft Word, please save your document in Rich Text Format (rtf). **All written work file names should begin with your last name and first initial and include the assignment name as the file name, for example: drouillard\_observation.docx**

The university's Information Technology department provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU's e-mail system and other resources. The IT Help Desk is at <http://www.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/guides/> Their telephone hotline is 229-245-4357.

**Late work:** All course work is due inside BlazeView on the date and time indicated on the course calendar. Any exceptions without penalties must be negotiated in advance. Technological crises are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeView is down.

A grace period of 24 hours is offered without penalty. After 24 hours 20% of the possible grade will be deducted from the student's score for every additional 24 hours or increment thereof that the work is late up until the day the BlazeView assignment submission window closes. If you need additional time to work on an assignment or if you have a scheduling conflict please contact your instructor BEFORE the assignment is due to discuss your situation. The instructor WILL NOT accept work after the assignment submission window closes without prior consent.

## University Policies

**Academic Honesty at Valdosta State University:** "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 behaviors are contained in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct." See also: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>

It is your responsibility to make sure you understand how to avoid breaches of academic integrity. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification. If you need help with citations and research resources and techniques, the university provides extensive resources for students. For help please start at the Odum Library's "how to" page: <http://www.valdosta.edu/library/learn/howto.shtml>

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>).

**Accommodations statement:** From VSU's Access Office: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V/VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY).

If you have a documented disability please contact the Access Office. Once your request for accommodation is submitted please contact the instructor to discuss accommodations or modifications of course content and delivery.

**Student Conduct:** All interactions related to this class are to be conducted respectfully and professionally whether during face to face meetings, online interactions, small group work, e-mail or telephone communication according to the Student Code of Conduct as presented in the

Valdosta State University Student Handbook, beginning on page 60:  
[http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/documents/Student\\_Handbook\\_2009-10v1.pdf](http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/documents/Student_Handbook_2009-10v1.pdf)

**Student Success Center:** <http://www.valdosta.edu/ssc/> provides free tutoring and support for distance learning students at <http://valdosta.askonline.net/>

**Student Agreement:** Enrollment in this class signifies that you have 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.