

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE**

Syllabus: MLIS 7999 Special Topics: Community Building—3 credit hours—Fall 2011

Instructors:

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Prerequisite: MLIS 7220

Learning Outcomes:

Students will

- Define the concept and context of community.
- Identify community issues and challenges in a specific setting.
- Specify the contributions that public libraries make to building their communities.
- Enumerate ways in which public libraries and librarians can engage in civic, cultural, and social development.
- Evaluate methods in which libraries can engage in and sustain community building.

Course format: This is an online course delivered through BlazeVIEW, Valdosta State University's electronic course management system. All course content will be delivered through BlazeVIEW. Students will be required to conduct selected course activities independently in their local communities.

Required course texts and resources:

Hill, Chrystie. (2009). *Inside, Outside, and Online: Building Your Library Community*. Chicago: ALA Editions. ISBN: 978-0-8389-0987-4.

McCook, Kathleen de la Peña. (2000). *A Place at the Table: Participating in Community Building*. Chicago: American Library Association. ISBN: 0-8389-0788-1.

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

Note: 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.

Summary of Graded Course Activities:

The course calendar provides a summary of all course readings and activities for the semester. Details for each week are posted in the appropriate folder on the course website. ***It is the student's responsibility to check the course calendar for due dates for all class work and the weekly folders for all required and supplemental readings and other materials.*** Summary descriptions of all required course work are provided below. Full details can be found in the assignments section of the course website.

Weekly Discussion Board Postings **30 points possible**

Community Building Project **70 points possible**

Library Visit and Report **20 points**

2 of 3 of the following for total of **30 points** possible:

Social Services Project up to 15 points

Cultural Project up to 15 points

Civic Project up to 15 points

Synthesis **20 points**

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>.

All required readings are summarized on the course calendar and listed in full on the reading list and in the weekly folders. All readings other than the books are accessible through GALILEO or Valdosta State University's Odum Library online journal access or through public access websites 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

website 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: 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.

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 me via BlazeVIEW course e-mail. If you would like to speak with me by telephone please let me know via e-mail so we can arrange a good time for both of us to talk.

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: HopperL_report1**

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. All exceptions without penalties must be negotiated in advance. Technological crises are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeVIEW is down.

After the due date, 20% of the possible grade will be deducted from the student's score for every 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 at <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 220-219-1348 (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 Success Center: <http://www.valdosta.edu/ssc/> provides free tutoring and support for distance learning students at <http://valdosta.askonline.net/>

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

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 the circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester.