Department of Library and Information Studies
MLIS 7280 | Community Building in Libraries & Information Centers | Section IB
Fall 2021
Three Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Based upon theoretical and pragmatic aspects of community building through libraries in areas such as social services, social learning/media, civic engagement, cultural enrichment, and the creative spirit.

TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Edwards, J. B., Robinson, M. S., & Unger, K. R. (2013). *Transforming libraries, building communities*. Scarecrow Press. [Available as a free eBook from VSU Odum Library]

Additional resources (readings, videos, websites, etc.) will be available electronically via GALILEO databases, on Odum Library course reserve, or through the course BlazeVIEW website.

Please familiarize yourself with the VSU policy that prohibits the use of the Interlibrary Loan service for obtaining textbooks at https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/MLISPolicyonILLRequestsforTextbooks.pdf.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to meet these Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). The SLOs are aligned with MLS program objectives (https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/our-program/):

SLO 1. Define the concept and context of community. (MLIS PO4)

SLO 2. Identify community issues and challenges in a specific setting. (MLIS PO3,4)

SLO 3. Specify the contributions that libraries make in building their communities.

(MLIS PO4)

SLO 4. Enumerate ways in which libraries and librarians can engage in civic, cultural, creative, and social development. (MLIS PO4)

SLO 5. Evaluate methods in which libraries can engage in and sustain community building. (MLIS PO1,3,4)

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

Course activities include a set of readings and assignments. 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 and assignment folders for all required and supplemental readings and other materials.*** Full descriptions of all required course work are provided in the assignments section of the course website.

Weekly readings: From the LIS professional and academic literature as indicated in the detailed reading list and are summarized on the course calendar. Articles will be available via GALILEO, or through VSU's Odum Library online course reserves, or links will be provided in the course website.

Assignments: full details are available in the Assignments section of the course website. Due dates are available on the course calendar in the course website. Students will submit their assignments as attachments to the relevant assignment module in the course website.

Discussion Board Posts (SLO 1)	= 25 points
Case Studies (SLO 3)	= 20 points
Librarians as a Community Champion (SLO 4)	= 20 points
Community Building Plan (SLO 1, 2, 4, 5)	= 35 points
TOTAL	**= 100 points**

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be submitted as instructed on the BlazeVIEW course website using Word formats (.doc or .docx suffixes only), PDFs, or other formats designated by the instructor. The university's Information Technology (IT) 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/administration/it/helpdesk/. Their telephone hotline is 229-245-4357. BlazeVIEW is powered by the Desire2Learn (D2L) Brightspace course learning system. D2L provides 24/7 support 365 days a year. To contact D2L, go to https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu or call the hotline at 855-772-0423.

LATE SUBMISSIONS, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, & MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS

Completely skipping an assignment is not acceptable in graduate school. To be eligible to receive an A in this course requires completing every assignment and submitting within the specified deadlines. All course work is due inside BlazeVIEW on the date and time indicated on the course calendar (based on the BlazeVIEW clock). Technology problems are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeVIEW is down at the time the work is due.

COURSE GRADES

Course grades will be awarded as follows:

A: 90%–100%
B: 80%–89%
C: 70%–7%
D: 60%–69%
F: Lower than 60%

No grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree and students must receive a grade of B or better to earn credit in core courses and the required collection development elective.

An overall grade of zero can be assigned to an entire paper or project if the instructor determines that its contents, or parts of its contents, were completed by a second party or copied into a paper or project from a source without proper citing. Noncompliance with rules on appropriate use of resources will result in zero credit for those parts of the assignment affected. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

VSU requires that you attend class in the first week. You must complete the attendance activity in order to not be dropped for this course by the deadline. All course activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW and Google sites. Course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is your responsibility to participate in all course activities and submit assignments on time. It is in your best interest to log into the course at least several times each week (daily is best) to check announcements, discussion board posts, and emails.

COMMUNICATION

Communication will be conducted through BlazeVIEW email, postings and replies in the discussion board, and/or BlazeVIEW announcements. Check these areas at least several times per week (daily is recommended) as you are responsible for knowing all information communicated through these channels.

VSU requires that all correspondence between the student and the instructor be conducted through official university channels. To that end, all email correspondence related to this course is to be sent using the email client built into the BlazeVIEW course website. For other correspondence with any VSU faculty members or administrative offices, please use your VSU email account.

PROFESSIONALISM

The Department of Library and Information Studies expects you to pursue your academic endeavors and conduct yourself in a professional and ethical manner. All work submitted in the course must represent your own efforts. Cite sources and include reference information. You should communicate in a professional manner in both speech and writing and maintain a professional attitude, being respectful to others and their viewpoints. Exercise an awareness of the pervasiveness of the online environment and strive to maintain a professional online presence.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct (https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/student-handbook.php) and the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism (https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php). All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics. Consequences for acts of academic dishonesty are detailed in the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism. For more information, visit Academic Honesty at VSU (https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsu.php).

STUDENT OPINION OF INSTRUCTION SURVEY

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available through SmartEvals. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the SOI Procedures webpage (https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/).

TITLE IX STATEMENT

Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: Dr. Sherolyn Hopkins, titleix@valdosta.edu, Student Union, Suite 3106, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5941. To file a report (not make an inquiry) please visit https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ValdostaStateUniv&layout_id=7

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office (https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/) or email access@valdosta.edu

Helpful Links

Technical Support (IT helpdesk)	https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/
Center for eLearning (support for BlazeVIEW)	https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/
Academic Support Center	https://www.valdosta.edu/asc/
Hope Connect (Mental Health Services)	https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/hope-connect-about.php