



James L. & Dorothy H. Dewar
COLLEGE of EDUCATION
& HUMAN SERVICES
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Library and Information Studies
MLIS 7140
Advanced Reference
Fall 2023
Three Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Xiaoai Ren

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Website: <https://www.valdosta.edu/about/directory/profile/xren>

Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An Examination of multi-disciplinary information domains, addressing user behavior, and information needs, resources, and services unique to researchers in the humanity and social sciences.

Prerequisite: MLIS 7100 with a grade of “B” or better.

TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

There is no required textbook for this class. Students will be given reading materials throughout the semester.

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. To differentiate the information-seeking behaviors of researchers and practitioners in different disciplines (PO 1).
- SLO 2. To utilize a working knowledge of the literature in each of the selected disciplines (PO1).
- SLO 3. To assess research needs across disciplines and demonstrate how information professionals may meet those needs (PO 1).
- SLO 4. To employ a variety of print and electronic resources in a multi-subject research setting (PO 1).
- SLO 5. To develop knowledge and skills for supporting multi-subject information services(PO 1).

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

The following list is a brief overview of the assessments used to measure learning outcomes included in this course. Complete instructions for each assignment along with grading criteria will be posted on the BlazeVIEW course site in advance of that assignment's due date.

Graded Discussions (SLO1, SLO2, SLO3) – 50 Points

You are expected to make meaningful contribution to the Graded discussion topics based on course readings and interact with your classmates.

Disciplinary Report (SLO1, SLO2, SLO3) – 15 Points

Select one discipline from the social sciences, and one discipline from the humanities to study them individually. Your disciplinary report should include the definitions and overviews of your selected disciplines, as well as key resources. You can include the resources listed by subject areas at the Odum Library website. You may also include other resources you identify from the web or from other sources.

Research Reference Project (SLO3, SLO4, SLO5) – 20 Points

This assignment requires students each select a research topic, interview one of their classmates on their selected topics, identify the classmate's information needs, and use relevant search methods and tools to identify needed research materials for each other.

Visual Resource Guide (SLO4 and SLO5) – 15 Points

You will create an illustrated resource guide on your selected topic.

There is one bonus point opportunity in this class.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All written work must be submitted as attachments to the assignment modules in the BlazeVIEW course website using required formats. 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 <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/>. Their telephone hotline is 229- 245-4357.

LATE SUBMISSIONS, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, & MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS

All course work is due on the specified date and time indicated on the course calendar. Technology problems are not acceptable excuses for submitting work late unless BlazeVIEW is down at the time the work is due.

*Please contact me before the due date if you need an extension to complete the assignment. Without prior contact, I will accept works submitted **no more than 3 days** late than the due date and grade with partial credits.*

Completely skipping an assignment is not acceptable in graduate school. To receive an A in this course requires completing every assignment.

MLIS PROGRAM E-PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT

An E-Portfolio is required for graduation by all students. You might consider including some of the assignments from this course in your portfolio.

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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

VSU requires that you attend class in the first week. You must submit an introduction post and respond to at least two classmates to meet the first week attendance requirement. All course activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW [and/or other platform(s) as designated by the instructor]. 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.

A **Got Questions?** discussion board will be available for the duration of the semester. Please post course-related questions on the discussion board. You are expected to subscribe to and check this discussion board regularly. I will answer your email or discussion board questions within 24 hours or sooner, Monday through Friday. *Please send me a reminder email if you don't receive my reply after 48 hours.*

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.

VSU's Academic Student Conduct Code states that "no student shall engage in plagiarism, which is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were the student's own." Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper citation is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

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/>).

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND TITLE IX STATEMENT

Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Ms. Selenseia Holmes. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and

implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Christina Kidd, Student Conduct Coordinator at chkidd@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

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