

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SOURCES

MLIS 7120 Fall 2013

Instructor: Lisa Ennis (lennis@uab.edu)

Catalog Course Description

Use of and access to government documents, defining government documents, how they are generated or created, how and who uses them, how and where to find them. The course addresses government documents at the federal, state, and local levels as well as documents of international organizations (UN, EU, etc.) and foreign governments.

Objectives

- To enable students to identify, describe, evaluate, and use basic and specialized government information sources in both print and electronic formats.
- To acquaint students with processes of administering a government documents collection.
- Articulate issues and trends that affect the access, use, and dissemination of government publications.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation for the importance of government information in both public and academic libraries.
- Discuss the major topics, concepts, history, and issues of the Federal Depository Library Program.

Attendance

- This is a Web-delivered course with no required face-to-face meetings
- Live Classroom sessions might be scheduled when necessary

Required Materials

- Eric J Forte, et al. *Fundamentals of Government Information*, Neal-Schuman, 2011.
- National Archives and Records Administration, *United States Government Manual*, available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/>.
- *Legal Requirements & Program Regulations*, available at http://www.fdlp.gov/component/docman/doc_download/1984-legal-requirements-and-program-regulations-of-the-federal-depository-library-program.
- We will also be reading a number of articles throughout the course. They will be listed under the appropriate week in the course schedule. If any articles are not available through GALILEO they will be placed on reserve.

Assignments

1. Reference Question Exercises (10 points each)
2. Finding Guide (25 points)
3. Discussion Participation (15 points)
4. Article Assignment (50 points)
5. Final Paper (50 points)

Additional Assignment Information

- Details about each assignment will be provided on BlazeView
- Writing proficiency will be factored into Assignments
- Assignments are due by 12 noon on the scheduled days
- No late assignments will be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances arise
 - Conflicts with employers or other courses do not qualify as extenuating circumstances

Evaluation

General Grade Scale

A = excellent work, among the best work seen at the graduate level

B = satisfactory work, better than average work at the graduate level

C = honest attempt, needs moderate to major revisions to be satisfactory

D = unacceptable, perfunctory or missing work

Points Grade Scale

A = 93-100

B = 85-92

C = 77-84

D = 69-76

F = 68 and below

Final Grade Scale

A = always satisfactory, often excellent

B = mostly satisfactory, occasionally excellent

C = sometimes satisfactory, often needs revisions

D = rarely satisfactory, often perfunctory, late or missing

F = lacking even an attempt to learn or do, dishonesty, plagiarism

VSU Policies

Academic Honesty

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 Ethics.

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml>

Accommodations

Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the instructor at the first class meeting. Students not registered with Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room