

Valdosta State University
Master of Library and Information Science
MLIS 7150 Social Sciences Information Services
Syllabus--Spring 2009
Three Credit Hours

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Description

Examination of social science information domains and information resources, including the structures and bibliographies of the disciplines in electronic and print format. Various information formats are examined and appropriate search and retrieval methods are explored. Prerequisite: MLIS 7100 or consent of the instructor.

Objectives and Outcomes


At the end of the course, students will be able to

- Explain social science information-seeking behavior
- Utilize and evaluate a variety of print and electronic resources in the social sciences
- Utilize a working knowledge of the literature in selected disciplines of the social sciences
- Identify appropriate resources for collection development in the social sciences
- Assess information needs in the social sciences and describe how reference librarians can meet those needs

Required Materials

- Herron, Nancy. Ed. *The Social Sciences: A Cross-Disciplinary Guide to Selected Sources*. 3rd ed. Libraries Unlimited, 2002. ISBN: 1-56308-882-7 (paperback)



-  Headphones with attached microphone for use with Live Classroom software. An inexpensive one will be fine. Many are available for \$10-\$15.
- Additional readings posted in WebCT Vista or in Odum Library Electronic Reserve

Assignments

Assignment 1: Paper	10%	Due: January 25
Assignment 2: Print v. Internet Assessment	15%	Due: February 8
Assignment 3: Web Directory	15%	Due: February 22
Assignment 4: Journals Chart	15%	Due: March 15
Assignment 5: Collection Development Proposal	15%	Due: April 5
Assignment 6: Course Guide	30%	Due: May 3

Assignment Synopses

- **Paper:** An essay that synthesizes assigned readings on social science information-seeking behavior
- **Print v. Internet Assessment:** An evaluation of searches in *The World Almanac and Book of Facts* and in Google
- **Web Directory:** A compilation of Web sources answering a range of ready-reference questions
- **Journals Chart:** An annotated record of significant journals in selected disciplines
- **Collection Development Proposal:** A recommendation for reference sources based on reviews
- **Course Guide:** A reference guide for an undergraduate course requiring a research project

Additional Assignment Information

- Details about each assignment will be provided on WebCT
- Assignments are to be submitted using WebCT
- Due dates are Sundays by 11:59 p.m., with a 24-hour grace period
- Assignments submitted after the grace period ends will be lowered by a full grade
- The grace period might be extended due to extenuating circumstances

Textbook Readings Schedule

January 19	Herron pp. 3-8
February 1	Herron pp. 47-50, 93-97, 121-126
February 15	Herron pp. 195-199, 235-239, 259-261
March 1	Herron pp. 289-295, 347-349, 395-396, 433-435

Attendance

- This is a Web-delivered course with no required face-to-face meetings
- A mandatory Live Classroom session is scheduled on January 12 at 8:00 a.m.-8:50 a.m., 12:00 noon-12:50 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.-5:50 p.m. Attend one of them.
- Additional Live Classroom sessions might be scheduled when necessary

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

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

Standards and evaluation criteria for written assignments will be posted on WebCT

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 behavior 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 2164, 229-245-2498 229/219-1348 (TTY). See <http://www.valdosta.edu/access/intro.shtml>.