

Valdosta State University  
Master of Library and Information Science  
MLIS 7210: Academic Libraries  
Syllabus—Spring 2010  
Three Credit Hours

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### Description

An examination of the functions of the library within the higher education environment. The course promotes the Jeffersonian ideal of the library as the center of the university and explores administrative issues and service patterns specific to the academic library.

*Note:* This is a writing intensive course

### Outcomes

Students will

1. Discuss the history, development, and role of the academic library
2. Identify the issues facing academic libraries in the current higher education environment
3. Describe characteristics of the administrative departments in academic libraries
4. Explain the principles of service unique to the academic library
5. Apply the current standards and guidelines used to assess academic libraries in higher education
6. Write for a scholarly audience about topics specific to the academic library using LIS literature

### Required Materials

*Textbook*

John Budd. (2005). *The changing academic library: Operations, culture, environments*. Chicago, IL: ACRL.

*Additional Readings*

ACRL Standards for Libraries in Higher Education. Available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/standardslibraries.cfm>

Nicholas A. Basbanes. "In the Stacks" and "Deep Sleep." Chapters 10 & 11 in *Patience & Fortitude*. Available on Course Reserves.

Christopher Conkey. "Libraries Beckon, But Stacks of Books Aren't Part of Pitch; Valparaiso's New Building Has PCs, a Cafe, a Steinway; 'Quiet's Not the Thing.'" *The Wall Street Journal* October 21, 2006: A1, A4. Available in ABI/Inform Complete

Leigh S. Estabrook. "What Chief Academic Officers Want from Their Libraries: Findings from Interviews with Provosts and Chief Academic Officers." Available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/whitepapers/Finalreport-ACRLCAOs.pdf>.

W. Lee Hisle. "Top Issues Facing Academic Libraries: A Report of the Focus on the Future Task Force." *College & Research Library News* November 2002, Vol 63. No. 2: 714-715, 730. Available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/crlnews/index.cfm>

### Hardware



Headphones with attached microphone for use with Live Classroom software.

### Graded Assignments

The following assignments are graded.

News Reports	15%	Due: See schedule below
Exam I	15%	Due: February 18
Exam II	20%	Due: April 1
Instructional Presentation	10%	Due: See schedule on BlazeVIEW
Research Paper	35%	Due: April 29
Research Paper Presentation	5%	Due: April 29

### Assignment Synopses

- **News Reports:** Short statements about higher education news
- **Exams I & II:** Written tests on Budd and additional readings
- **Instructional Presentation:** PowerPoint presentation on an assigned chapter in Budd or required additional readings
- **Paper:** A research paper on an approved topic specific to academic libraries
- **Paper Presentation:** A short PowerPoint presentation about the research paper

Additional details about assignments will be provided on BlazeVIEW.

**Note:** All assignments are to be completed in order to pass the course. Except for the news reports, assignments submitted late automatically will lose 5 points for every 24-hour period.

So, an assignment submitted 5 minutes late will be lowered by 5 points, an assignment submitted 25 hours later will be reduced another 5 points, and so on. Extenuating circumstances, or special requests for extensions, should be handled in a phone call to the instructor.

## Schedule

### Week 1

Jan 11-15

TH14

6:00 p.m. Live Classroom: Introductory to course and academic libraries

Read: ACRL Standards, Hisle, and Conkey

F15

Optional self-introductions due on BlazeVIEW

### Week 2

Jan 18-22

M18

University Closed: MLK Holiday

F22

News report due

### Week 3

Jan 25-29

F29

News report due

### Week 4

Feb 1-5

TH4

Instructional presentations due: Budd chapters 1-3

F5

News report due

### Week 5

Feb 8-12

TH11

Instructional presentations due: Budd chapters 4, 5, 6.

5:00 p.m. Live Classroom

### Week 6

Feb 15-19

TH18

Exam I due

### Week 7

Feb 22-26

F26

News report due

Last day for approving research paper topic

### Week 8

Mar 1-5

TH4

Instructional presentations due: Budd chapters 7, 8, 9

F5

News report due

### Week 9

Mar 8-12

TH11                      Instructional presentations due: Budd Chapters 10, 11, 12  
F12                        News report due

March 15-19              Spring Break  
F19                        USG furlough day: no university business permitted

Week 10  
Mar 22-26  
TH25                      Instructional presentations due: Basbanes & Estabrook  
5:00 p.m. Live Classroom

Week 11  
Mar 29-Apr 2  
TH1                        Exam II due

Week 12  
Apr 5-9  
F8                         Work on paper  
News report due

Week 13  
Apr 12-16  
F15                        Work on paper  
News report due

Week 14  
Apr 19-23                Work on paper

Week 15  
Apr 26-30  
TH29                      Research papers due  
5:00 p.m. Live Classroom: Research paper presentations

Finals  
May 3-7  
M3                         Last day of classes  
T4                         USG furlough day: no university business permitted

## Grading Scales

### **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 = perfunctory or missing work

### **Points Grade Scale**

- A=93-100
- B=85-92
- C=77-84

D=69-76  
F=Below 69

### **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.

### **Attendance**

This is an online course and no face-to-face meetings are scheduled. Except for the April 29 session, attending Live Classrooms is optional.

### **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>

### **Special Needs**

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.

### **Student Conduct**

Behavior, which includes emails, phone calls, and discussion postings in BlazeVIEW, is to be respectful and professional. Guidelines are specified in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics. [http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/documents/SAF\\_Student\\_Handbook2009-050809.pdf](http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/documents/SAF_Student_Handbook2009-050809.pdf)

*Note: The instructor may adapt or change the syllabus and/or the assignments according to circumstances that might arise during the semester.*

LAST UPDATED JANUARY 14, 2010