

Valdosta State University  
Master of Library and Information Science  
MLIS 7400: Collection Development  
Syllabus--Fall 2009  
Three Credit Hours

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### Description

Principles and processes for building and maintaining library and information center collections. Identification, evaluation, selection, acquisition, and preservation of materials in all formats will be emphasized. The contexts of all types of libraries, needs of diverse patrons, and legal and ethical issues will be considered. Prerequisite or corequisite: MLIS 7000 or consent of instructor.

### Learning Outcomes

Students will

1. Discuss principles of collection development in any type of library or information center
2. Conduct a needs assessment that effectively can inform a collection development process
3. Contribute to the identification, evaluation, selection, acquisition, and preservation of materials in all formats
4. Formulate collection development practices meeting the needs of diverse patrons
5. Incorporate knowledge of legal and ethical issues into collection development
6. Use relevant documentation and tools

### Required Materials

- G. Edward Evans and Margaret Zarnosky Saponaro. *Developing Library and Information Center Collections*. Fifth Edition. Westport, Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited, 2005.
- Nora Rawlinson. "Give `Em What They Want." *Library Journal* 106 (November 15 1981): 2188-2190. On Course Reserves. Password: banana
- Murray C. Bob. "The Case for Quality Book Selection." *Library Journal* 107 (September 15 1982): 1707-1710. On Course Reserves: banana



- A headset with attached microphone for use with Live Classroom software. Noise-cancelling properties are recommended.

## Syllabus

### Weeks 1-5

August 17-September 20	Read Chapters 1-9 and Selection Process Theory on the CD included with the textbook
September 3	Live Classroom 6:00 p.m.
September 17	Live Classroom 6:00 p.m.
September 18-20	Mid-term Exam

### Weeks 6-12

September 21-November 1	Read Chapters 9-18 and the articles “Give ‘em What They Want” by Rawlinson and “The Case for Quality Book Selection” by Bob on Course Reserves
October 1	Live Classroom: 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. Guest: Jack Fisher, Head of Acquisitions, Odum Library
October 29	Live Classroom 6:00 p.m.
October 30-November 1	Final Exam

### Weeks 13-16

November 2-December 5	Work on Paper
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## Graded Assignments

The following assignments are graded.

Mid-Term Exam	20%	Due September 18-21
Final Exam	25%	Due October 30-November 2
Discussion Responses	10%	Due: TBA
Paper	45%	Due December 7

## Assignment Synopses

- **Mid-term:** A multiple-choice, true-false timed exam based on readings

- **Final:** A cumulative multiple-choice, true-false timed exam based on readings
- **Discussion Responses:** Two thoughtful, critical postings written for an academic audience that make clear a discerning awareness of readings
- **Paper:** A simulated selection project for a particular library type and subject

Additional details will be provided on BlazeVIEW. All assignments are to be completed in order to pass the course. Late assignments will be accepted but with the following points deduction: -5 points any part of a 24-hour period; e.g, an assignment submitted 2 minutes later loses 5 points, one sent 24 hours and 2 minutes late loses 10 points, etc.

### Ungraded Live Classroom Requirement

Attendance at the October 1 Live Classroom, plus one additional session, is required. *Not fulfilling this requirement will lower the final grade by one grade.* Other than on October 1, which will focus on selection and acquisitions, Live Classrooms will discuss topics of interest to the students from the readings or from the folder containing questions for further discussion.

### Discussions

The professor will post three discussion topics, and students are required to reply to two of them. Each posting is to be a thoughtful critical paragraph (50-100 words) written for an academic audience that makes clear a discerning awareness of relevant material in the readings. Each will be graded on content (75 points) and writing (25 points). Each is worth 5% for a combined total of 10% of the final grade.

Student use of the discussion feature on BlazeVIEW is encouraged. The topics can pertain to the readings or to the questions for further discussion (see the folder called Questions for Further Discussion). Responding to student-generated discussion topics is not required nor are the responses graded. The professor will comment if asked, or if the topic requires further explanation.

Note: Questions about assignments should be directed in email to the professor, who will announce clarifications if 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 = 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. Attendance at the Live Classroom on October 1, plus a second session, is required.

### **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**

Student behavior, which includes emails to class members and the instructor as well as postings to the discussion board 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 this syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester.