

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7505 Applied Technologies in Library Practice
Syllabus—Summer I (Maymester) Semester 2009
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:

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Course Description:

A survey of the technologies defining or influencing library practices with an emphasis on exemplary cases of applications. Topics will include computer workstations, automated systems, networking and telecommunications, the Internet, digitization projects, program interfaces, information storage and retrieval, adaptive and assistive devices, security and privacy, and virtual user education.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion the student will:

- Describe major types of technologies in today's libraries.
- Develop strategies for keeping pace with changing technologies.
- Report on the impacts of recent technological developments on library practices.
- Investigate examples of library applications transformed by changing technologies.

Class Activities:

Class activities include a set of readings, podcasts, streaming videos, assignments, and synchronous/asynchronous online discussions. Students will complete weekly assignments that provide an opportunity to demonstrate familiarity with the course content. Assignments will provide students with conceptual and practical understanding of technologies (e.g., open source software, radio-frequency identification, wikis, social networking sites, social tagging, blogging, content management systems, digital libraries, institutional repositories) and standards used in today's libraries and information centers. Emerging technologies and standards will be examined. A set of multimedia content in the form of podcasts and streaming videos will be made available as part of course content. Students should participate in online meetings to discuss and share their opinions of the week's topics, assignments, readings, and multimedia content.

Textbook:

- No Textbook required.
- Suggested Readings:
 - Farkas, M. G. (2007). *Social Software in Libraries: Building Collaboration, Communication, and Community Online*. Medford: Information Today.
 - Burke, J. J. (2006). *Library Technology Companion: A Basic Guide for Library Staff* (2nd ed.). New York: Neal-Schuman.
 - Courtney, N. (Ed.). (2005). *Technology for the Rest of Us: A Primer on Computer Technologies for the Low-Tech Librarian*. Westport: Libraries Unlimited.

Grading:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Participation, Readings, & Discussions: 5 pts
- Leading a Class Discussion: 5 pts
- Assignments: 70 pts
- Final Project: 20 pts

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- A – 90 - 100
- B – 80 - 89
- C – 70 - 79
- D – 60 - 69
- F – 0 - 59

Assignment Submission:

- Deadlines for each graded activity are clearly stated on the MLIS 7505 Course Calendar on the course home page on WebCT Vista.
- There is 1-day grace period for each graded activity after its original due date.
- Missing a deadline for any graded activity may result in a reduction in your grade (i.e., 5% deduction from the original mark for each day after 1-day grace period) unless you arrange a mutually acceptable alternative with the instructor.

Course Requirements:**Participation, Readings, & Discussions (5 pts)**

- The course is designed for online delivery.
- Students should participate in online meetings to attend guest speaker presentations and to discuss and share their opinions of the week's topics, assignments, readings, and multimedia content.

Last Update: May 13, 2009

- Date and time information for online meetings will be made available on WebCT.
- All questions regarding content, assignments, and readings should be posted to class discussion board on WebCT.
- Students may answer questions posted by their classmates.

There are also required, supplemental readings to cover broad areas of social networking, emerging technologies and standards, and digital libraries. These readings are made available to the student through the web as pdf files or hyperlinks to original material. It is expected that each student will have the ability to download and open up both PDF files and Word (doc) files.

Students should post their views about each article at designated areas on the discussion board for further discussion.

Leading a Class Discussion (5 pts)

One or two students will be assigned by the Instructor (students will be allowed to pick their topic of interest) to lead a discussion based on a vodcast, podcast, or a reading on the class discussion board every week. The student is expected to initiate the discussion, monitor the discussion thread and respond to answers, questions, or feedback posted by other students.

Assignments (70 pts)

- Students will complete four assignments that provide an opportunity to demonstrate familiarity with the course content.
- Collaboration on homework assignments is encouraged. You may consult outside reference materials, other students, or the instructor. However, all of your answers should reflect your understanding of the subject matter at the time of writing.
- Assignments will provide students with conceptual understanding of variety of library technologies and standards.

Final Project (Presentation: 5 pts & Research Paper: 15 pts)

- This project may be completed as a group.
- Students are expected to identify an emerging technology or standard that can be applicable to libraries or is already in use in libraries
- Project topic can be selected from one of the focal areas in course modules
- Be prepared to make a 10 minute Live Classroom presentation
- Research paper must provide basic background information about the topic, address its advantages and disadvantages, and discuss its (potential) application in today's library and information centers.
- Research paper should be about 7 pages (single-spaced at font size of 12pt). Use the APA Style Manual, 5th edition, for both in-text citations and composition of references. Here is a guide: [APA Formatting and Style Guide](#)

Tentative Class Schedule

The class will have an additional week for final project presentations on Live Classroom and ends on June 12.

Academic Week (Summer I) May 14 – June 12	Study Focus	Assignment / Project Due
Week I (May 14 – May 17)	<u>Module 1</u> : Web 2.0 / Library 2.0 (e.g., Social Networking Sites, Blogs, Wikis, RSS)	TBD
Week II (May 18 – May 24)	<u>Module 2</u> : Content Management Systems (e.g., Drupal, WordPress)	TBD
Week III (May 25 – May 31)	<u>Module 3</u> : Selected Technologies and Standards (e.g., Open Archives Initiative, Web Services, Search Retrieve URL, MODS, METS, RDF, RFID)	TBD
Week IV (June 1 – June 7)	<u>Module 4</u> : Digital Technologies (e.g., Digital Libraries, Institutional Repositories, Digital Preservation)	TBD
Week V (June 8 – June 12)	Final Project - Live Classroom Presentations	TBD

Technological Requirements:

As this is an online course that also focuses its attention on online information services, students must have almost daily access to the Internet. That access will use email and the web (through the student's browser) for class-related communication. As mentioned above, it is expected that each student will be capable of dealing with PDF files and Word documents (doc files).

Course communications will use . . .

1. WebCT Vista email system and discussion board are official means of communication in this class. In addition, VSU email system may be used alternatively in case WebCT Vista fails.
2. A WebCT Vista website, used by the instructor to make links available for each unit of the topical units

Distance Learning Support:

To help address concerns of off-campus and online students, the library maintains the Library Services and Resources for Distance Education Student webpage at <http://www.valdosta.edu/library/services/distancestudents.shtml> .

If at any time you have general questions about the library or specific questions about library resources, please call the Odum Library Reference Desk at (229) 333-7149 or email at <http://www.valdosta.edu/library/forms/disted.php> . Chat reference is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/library/ask.shtml> .

VSU Policies:

Please become aware of and be guided by these VSU policies.

- Access Office for Students with Disabilities: <http://www.valdosta.edu/access/>
- Academic Dishonesty, p. 269 of Graduate Catalog, 2008/09: <http://www.valdosta.edu/catalog/0809/grad/documents/grad266-296.pdf>
- Student Code of Conduct, p. 56: <http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook.shtml>
- Equal Opportunity Statement: <http://www.valdosta.edu/eopma/aboutus/eos.shtml>
- Sexual Harassment: <http://www.valdosta.edu/legal/shp.shtml>

Student Agreement:

Enrollment in this class signifies that the student has agreed to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that 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.