

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7800 Capstone
Syllabus--Spring Semester 2008
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:

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Course Description

Required for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MLIS degree. Emphasis will be on synthesis of knowledge, honing writing and presentation skills, and creating a professional development plan.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Synthesize knowledge gained throughout the course of study and apply that knowledge to the consideration of current professional issues.
2. Make an effective professional presentation.
3. Write a paper of publishable quality.
4. Create a professional development plan.
5. Navigate the job hunting process.
6. Articulate personal professional goals.

Course Prerequisite or Corequisite: Taken during the final semester of study

Required Text

Rubin, Richard E. *Foundations of Library and Information Science*. New York: Neal Schuman. The edition you used in Foundations will be fine.

Assignments

Major presentation and paper: You will prepare a conference-style presentation and a paper of publishable quality on a topic of your choice, with the topic subject to instructor approval. Presentations will last 15-20 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions and discussion. Paper length and style will depend on topic and on requirements of appropriate publication venues. Presentation and final paper are due at Class #4. "Progress conference" with instructor at Class #2. "Dry run" of presentation and draft of final paper due at Class #3.

Portfolio: You will update, present and discuss your portfolio. Feedback will be provided by the instructor and classmates. Discussion and sharing of portfolios at Class #1; updated portfolios due at Class #4.

Professional Development Plan: Each student will create and record a personal plan for professional development. For students who need to seek employment, this will include a detailed job-hunting plan. For all students, this will include plans for solidifying and updating their professional knowledge in the two-year period following graduation. Submit via WebCT Vista no later than Class #2.

Reflection on MLIS Experience: Each student will prepare an essay that reflects on and evaluates his or her experience with the MLIS degree program. The essay will include the student's determination of strengths and weaknesses within the program. Submit via WebCT Vista no later than Class #3.

Current Issues Discussions: Due at Class #2. You will moderate class discussions on a current issue in LIS. These will be topics that have appeared in either the LIS or popular literature during the past year and ones on which people of good will have disagreed. Topics will be assigned at Class #1. For your topic, you will identify pieces of published literature that state all sides of the issue and you will prepare two or three questions to guide the discussion.

Requirements

Presentation	25%	Prof Dev Plan	10%
Paper	25%	Reflective Essay	15%
Portfolio	15%	Current Issues Discussions	10%

Grading

General Grading 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

Late work is dropped one letter grade

Final Grading 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

Calendar and Agendas

Sat Jan 5, 2008
10:00-5:00 p.m.

Class #1
Macon State College

Introductions
Confirm dates, times, and locations of Classes 2, 3, and 4
Discuss Rubin text
Strengths and challenges discussion
Portfolio discussion
Project consultations with instructor
Assign Current Issues topics

No later than Class #2: submit Professional Development Plan via WebCT Vista

Date TBA
Time TBA

Class #2
Place TBA

Current Issues discussions
Progress conferences on projects

No later than Class #3: submit Reflective Essay via WebCT Vista

Date TBA
Time TBA

Class #3
Place TBA

“Dry run” of presentations
Presentation and discussion of portfolios
Draft of paper due

Fri May 2, 2008
Time TBA

Class #4
Place TBA

Capstone presentations

Deadline for dropping the class without academic penalty is Thursday, Feb 28.



Congratulations, Graduates!

Academic Dishonesty

“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*.

Special Needs Statement

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of our institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as the Title IX section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students not registered with the Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room 2164, 229-245-2498.

Attendance

This is a face-to-face class. In-class participation is integral to the course design. Therefore, it is expected that students will make consistent, contributive attendance a high priority. **If you are compelled to be absent, you must negotiate a mutually acceptable alternative with the instructor in order to make a passing grade.**