

**Dewar College of Education and Human Services  
Valdosta State University  
Department of Library and Information Studies**

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**MLIS 7220  
Public Libraries  
Three Credit Hours**

**Guiding Principles (DEPOSITS)**

**(Adapted from the Georgia Systemic Teacher Education Program Accomplished Teacher Framework)**

Dispositions Principle: Productive dispositions positively affect learners, professional growth, and the learning environment.

Equity Principle: All learners deserve high expectations and support.

Process Principle: Learning is a lifelong process of development and growth.

Ownership Principle: Professionals are committed to and assume responsibility for the future of their disciplines.

Support Principle: Successful engagement in the process of learning requires collaboration among multiple partners.

Impact Principle: Effective practice yields evidence of learning.

Technology Principle: Technology facilitates teaching, learning, community-building, and resource acquisition.

Standards Principle: Evidence-based standards systematically guide professional preparation and development.

**ALA's Core Competences of Librarianship**

**(extracted from ALA's Core Competences of Librarianship 2009, available from**

**<http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/sites/ala.org.educationcareers/files/content/careers/corecomp/corecompetences/finalcorecompstat09.pdf>)**

1. Foundations of the Profession: The librarian understands the role of library and information professionals in the promotion of democratic principles and intellectual freedom (including freedom of expression, thought, and conscience), the legal framework within which libraries and information agencies operate; and the certification and/or licensure requirements of specialized areas of the profession.
2. Information Resources: The librarian understands the concepts and issues related to the lifecycle of recorded knowledge and information; the acquisition and disposition of resources; and the management and maintenance of various collections.
3. Organization of Recorded Knowledge and Information: The librarian understands and uses the principles involved in the organization, representation, and classification of recorded knowledge and information.
4. Technological Knowledge and Skills: The librarian understands and uses information, communication, assistive, and related technologies consistent with professional ethics and prevailing service norms and applications.

5. Reference and User Services: The librarian understands and uses the concepts, principles, and techniques of reference and user services to provide access to relevant and accurate recorded knowledge and information to individuals of all ages and groups.
6. Research: The librarian understands and uses the fundamentals of quantitative and qualitative research methods to evaluate and assess the actual and potential value of new research.
7. Professionalism. The librarian understands the necessity of continuing professional development of practitioners in libraries and other information agencies; the role of the library in the lifelong learning of patrons; and the application of learning theories, instructional methods, and achievement measures in libraries and other information agencies.
8. Administration and Management: The librarian understands the principles of planning and budgeting in libraries and other information agencies; the principles of effective personnel practices and human resource development; the assessment and evaluation of library services and their outcomes; and the issues relating to, and methods for, principled, transformational leadership.

### **MLIS Program Objectives (PO)**

Graduates of the MLIS Program will:

- PO 1. Perform administrative, service, and technical functions of professional practice in libraries and information centers by demonstrating skills in information resources, reference and user services, administration and management, and organization of recorded knowledge and information. *[ALA CORE COMPETENCES 1,2,3,5,8]*
- PO 2. Use existing and emerging technologies to meet needs in libraries and information centers. *[ALA CORE COMPETENCES 4]*
- PO 3. Integrate relevant research to enhance their work in libraries and information centers. *[ALA CORE COMPETENCES 6]*
- PO 4. Demonstrate professionalism as librarians or information specialists. *[ALA CORE COMPETENCES 7]*

### **INSTRUCTOR**

Lenese M. Colson, Ph. D.

Odum Library, Suite 4600

Phone: 229-219-3403

E-mail: lcolson@valdosta.edu

Office Hours: Tue & Wed 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; Thu 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the American public library and its place in contemporary Communities; Topics include standards, planning, evaluation, governance, funding, and advocacy.

***Prerequisite or co-requisite: MLIS 7200 or consent of the instructor.***

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS**

*Introduction to Public Librarianship (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)* by Kathleen de la Peña McCook & Jenny S. Bossaller  
ISBN: 978-0-8389-1506-6 (pb); e-Pub (978-0-83891664-3); Kindle (978-0-8389-1666-7)

APA citation (7<sup>th</sup> edition):

McCook, K. & Bossaller, J. S. (2018). *Introduction to Public Librarianship (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)*. ALA Neal-Schuman.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES (with alignment to MLIS Program Objectives)**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

SLO 1. Recognize the history of public libraries in the U.S. (*ALA Core Competence 1, MLIS PO1*)

SLO 2. Analyze the role of public libraries in contemporary U.S. society. (*ALA Core Competence 1,2 MLIS PO1*).

SLO 3. Describe governance of U.S. public libraries including their missions, goals, and functions (*ALA Core Competence 1, MLIS PO1*).

SLO 4. Analyze and discuss the development, marketing, delivery and management of public library services and programs (*ALA Core Competence 1,8, MLIS PO1,4*).

SLO 5. Identify and describe user and community characteristics and priorities and their effects on public library systems and services (*ALA Core Competence 5,7, MLIS PO1*).

SLO 6. Analyze and discuss methods of evaluating public library systems, services, and programs (*ALA Core Competence 2,4,8 MLIS PO2*).

SLO 7. Analyze and discuss the uses and impacts of digital information technology in public libraries (*ALA Core Competence 4; MLIS PO2*).

**COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS****Summary of Graded Course Activities:**

The course calendar provides a summary of all course readings and activities for the semester. Details for each unit are posted in the appropriate folder on the course website. ***It is the student's responsibility to check the course calendar for DUE DATES for all class work, and the unit folders for all required and supplemental readings and other materials.*** Summary descriptions of all required course work are provided below. Full details can be found in the assignments section of the course website.

**Weekly Discussion Board Postings Total Points Possible: 30 (SLO 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)**

Week 1: Required - Please post your Introduction on the DB by midnight on Sunday of Week 1

Weeks 2 – 16 Six (6) Interactive topics; 5 points each; full details in the *Assignments* document.

**Two Public Library Reports Total Points Possible: 40 (SLO 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)**

Summary: Identify a public library near your home or workplace. If you already work in a public library, you may use your workplace library and library system for this assignment. You may (and should) use this library as a resource for completing most of the assignments in this course and as a resource for your responses to the weekly discussion board topics when appropriate. There are two reports required which will be submitted individually by the dates indicated on the course calendar. Complete instructions are provided in the assignments section of the course website.

**Report 1 – Library profile and challenges: 20 points**

**Report 2 – Library Services and Programming: 20 points****Literature Review 20 points (SLO 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)**

Public libraries are rapidly changing institutions and public librarianship is a rapidly changing field of practice. Identify a relevant topic of interest or concern to you and explore it in a 2500-3000-word paper.

***This is not an opinion paper;*** please explore the professional and research literature on your topic and present different perspectives if you find them. This paper should be double-spaced and must follow APA in-text format. Complete instructions are provided in the *Assignments* section of the course website.

**Final Vision Essay 10 points (SLO 6)**

After studying this semester about various public library topics, this is your chance to define what you want your public library to be. Complete instructions are provided in the assignments section of the course website.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Students can earn a maximum of 100 points in this course as indicated above. Course grades will be awarded as follows:

- A: 90 – 100 points
- B: 80 – 89 points
- C: 70 – 79 points
- D: 60 – 69 points
- F: fewer than 60 points.

**NO grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree. *To be eligible to receive an A in the course a student must complete every assignment.***

An overall grade of zero can be assigned to an entire paper or project if the instructor determines that its contents, or parts of its contents, were completed by a second party or copied into a paper or project from a source without proper citing. Noncompliance with rules on appropriate use of resources will result in zero credit for those parts of the assignment affected. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.

Your final grade will be one of these letter grades:

Exceptionally exceeds minimum standards	A
Exceeds minimum standards	B
Meets minimum standards	C
Barely meets minimum standards	D
Fails to meet minimum standards	F

**Course Evaluation**

Students in this course are expected to: 1) Read or view all assigned materials; 2) Participate in class activities; 3) Submit all projects on time and according to the format designated by the instructor; 4) Conduct all research and composition according to the VSU Academic Honesty Policy. See the COEHS *Policy on Plagiarism* on page 6 and the *MLIS Guide to Ethical Conduct* at

<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/GuidetoEthicalConductWebversion.pdf>).

## COMMUNICATION

Please post course-related questions that may be relevant to the class on the Faculty Office discussion board. Communication from Dr. Colson will be conducted through BlazeVIEW email, postings and replies in the Faculty Office discussion board, and BlazeVIEW announcements. **Check these areas at least several times per week (daily is recommended) as you are responsible for knowing all information communicated through these channels.**

VSU requires that all correspondence between the student and the instructor be conducted through official university channels. To that end, all e-mail correspondence related to this course is to be sent using the email client built into BlazeVIEW. Non-course email should be sent to the instructor's regular VSU email address. Students should always use their own VSU email addresses for all VSU related communications. If you are having difficulty learning the subject matter or keeping up with the reading or assignments please contact me immediately. **I can't help if I don't know there's a problem**, and handling problems earlier rather than later is always better.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

### Technical Requirements

All class materials will be placed in the BlazeVIEW course management program. Login through MyVSU (<https://myvsu.valdosta.edu/portals/>) using your VSU Single Sign-on ID and password.

To meet all class requirements, you should be prepared to: (1) open and save or print all documents that are required background reading — this requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer; (2) view all PowerPoints placed on the course BlazeVIEW site; (3) participate in Blackboard Collaborate sessions — login links and instructions will be available through your BlazeVIEW course homepage; (4) check discussion groups as needed; and (5) keep electronic backup copies of each assignment and project you submit.

All assignments must be submitted as instructed on the BlazeVIEW course website as a PDF (.pdf) or other formats designated by the instructor. All written work file names should begin with your last name and first initial and include the assignment name as the file name (for example: SkywalkerL\_Report1.pdf).

### Distance Learning and Technical Support

It is absolutely essential that your computer's technical connections to the applications provided through the university's Information Technology department and the eLearning lab (Distance Learning) are ready to go as of the first day of class. The IT Help Desk is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/helpdesk/> and their phone hot line is 229-245-4357.

Help with BlazeVIEW is available from the D2L Help Center, linked at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/blazeview-d2l.php> or 1-855-772-0423.

To ask questions about availability or location of VSU online resources use VSU Library's Live Chat or Email at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/>. You may also phone the VSU Library's reference service at 229-333-7149.

### **LATE POLICY**

Plan to submit all assignments by the deadlines designated on the Course Calendar. Assignments are generally due Sundays at 11:59PM EDT/EST. **Late submissions will not be accepted or graded.** However, there may be some flexibility in this rule—if you are having trouble completing an assignment, contact me **before** the due date so that we can discuss whatever issues you are experiencing. There is no grace period for Discussion Board posts. I will not grade or give credit for discussion activity completed after the due date/time.

Completely skipping an assignment is not acceptable in graduate school. To be eligible to receive an A in this course requires completing every assignment and submitting within the specified deadlines. All course work is due inside BlazeVIEW on the date and time indicated on the course calendar (based on the BlazeVIEW clock). Technology problems are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeVIEW is down at the time the work is due.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

All course meetings and activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW, Valdosta State University's electronic course management system. Course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is the student's responsibility to follow the course calendar and participate via BlazeVIEW as indicated at the appropriate times. The instructor reserves the right to schedule real-time delivery of instruction using tools available inside BlazeVIEW. It is in the student's best interest to log into the BlazeVIEW course delivery system daily to check for announcements and e-mail messages related to the course.

### **PROFESSIONALISM**

The Department of Library and Information Studies expects that MLIS 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. The student will be timely and complete assignments and other engagements. The student will communicate in a professional manner in both speech and writing. The student will maintain a professional attitude, being respectful to others and their viewpoints, and seek to maintain objectivity. The student will exercise an awareness of the pervasiveness of the online environment and strive to maintain a professional online presence.

### **DEWAR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY ON PLAGIARISM**

<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php>

### **TITLE IX STATEMENT**

Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy status, sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning

nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: Maggie Viverette, Director of the Office of Social Equity, [titleix@valosta.edu](mailto:titleix@valosta.edu), 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31608, 229-333-5463.

## **ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT**

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of the institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the age, sex, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent Executive Orders as well as Title IX, Equal Pay Act of 1963, Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). For more information, please visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/access> or email: [access@valdosta.edu](mailto:access@valdosta.edu).

## **STUDENT OPINION OF INSTRUCTION**

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available through SmartEvals. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the SOI Procedures webpage (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/>).