



James L. & Dorothy H. Dewar
COLLEGE of EDUCATION
& HUMAN SERVICES
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Library and Information Studies
MLIS 7700 IA & IB
Summer 2024
3 Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Nicole Alemanne (she/her)
Odum Library Room 4600
Phone: 229-245-3742
ndalemanne@valdosta.edu
<https://www.valdosta.edu/about/directory/profile/ndalemanne>
Office Hours: Tue & Wed 12:00–2:30PM and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: MLIS 7000. An introduction to the various approaches to social science research and research methods. Students will perform small scale research projects and develop skills in the research uses of libraries and the needs of library patrons.

INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

My approach to this course is to support you in learning the basics of social research methods, with a focus on providing opportunities for you to learn, discuss, and practice basic knowledge and skills. I don't expect you to be an expert researcher when you complete the course. You should be a more informed user of published research, be prepared to participate in research and assessment projects, be able to connect your knowledge to various uses of social research methods, and have a solid background for continued learning about research methods. Because this is a core course it is work intensive and we will move quickly! If you run into problems let me know right away so that I can try to help you avoid falling behind.

TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXT

Babbie, E. R. (2021). *The practice of social research* (15th ed.). Cengage Learning.

OR

Babbie, E. R. (2016). *The practice of social research* (14th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Additional resources (readings, videos, websites, etc.) will be available electronically via GALILEO databases, on Odum Library course reserve, or through the course BlazeVIEW website

Please familiarize yourself with the VSU policy that prohibits the use of the Interlibrary Loan service for obtaining textbooks at
<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/general/about/policies/ill/borrowing.php>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to meet these Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). The SLOs are aligned with MLIS program objectives (<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/our-program/>):

- SLO 1. Recognize the inter-relationships of theory, research, and scientific inquiry (PO3).
- SLO 2. Discuss basic ethical issues associated with conducting research (PO3, PO4).
- SLO 3. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative research methods (PO3).
- SLO 4. Identify the basic elements in the design of social research studies (PO3).
- SLO 5. Relate terminology, concepts, and processes of social research to studies conducted in the library and information science (LIS) field (PO3).

This course covers the following 2009 American Library Association Core Competences of Librarianship (<https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/careers/corecomp/corecompetences>):

1. Foundations of the Profession
6. Research
7. Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning
8. Administration and Management

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

The following list is a brief overview of the assessments used to measure learning outcomes included in this course. Complete instructions for each assignment along with grading criteria will be posted on the BlazeVIEW course site in advance of that assignment's due date.

Weekly Activities (18%):

These are opportunities for you to collaborate with other students to practice and discuss basic concepts and skills.

Human Subjects Training (3%)

Complete training or provide documentation of training within the past three years.

Formative Quizzes (12%)

These are low stakes quizzes designed to help you learn the course content. You can retake them as many times as you want, and your highest score will be recorded.

Article Critique (15%)

You will evaluate two published articles.

Green Library Assessment Project (52%)

You will conduct a small research project to assess a library's environmental sustainability. The project will be completed in three major steps:

- **Project Schedule & Draft List of Indicators:** You will develop a schedule for your work on the project and a list of green library indicators that you will look for in your observations (10%).
- **Status Report & Draft Literature Review:** At the midpoint of the semester, you will prepare a status report on your progress on the project and develop a draft literature review (12%).
- **Final Report:** You will develop a report on your implementation of the project, your findings, and recommendations (30%). **Successful completion of this assignment**

is necessary to fulfill requirements for this course and indicates partial accomplishment of MLIS Program-level student learning outcomes.

You will also have a chance to discuss the project with your classmates. This step-by-step process is designed to scaffold your work on the project and to give me opportunities to provide formative feedback on your work.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be submitted as instructed on the BlazeVIEW course website using Word formats (.doc or .docx suffixes only) or other formats designated by the instructor. The university's Information Technology (IT) department provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU's e-mail system and other resources. The IT Help Desk is at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/helpdesk/>. Their telephone hotline is 229-245-4357. BlazeVIEW is powered by the Desire2Learn (D2L) Brightspace course learning system. D2L provides 24/7 support 365 days a year. To contact D2L, go to <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu> or call the hotline at 855-772-0423.

LATE SUBMISSIONS, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, & MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment and activity due dates are posted in the course BlazeVIEW site. The due dates are constructed to support you in learning the course material and to provide time for me to give you feedback, so I expect that you will submit all assignments and activities on or before the due date. But I do understand that life happens! If you are going to have trouble making a due date, please contact me before the assignment is due—I'm happy to discuss a possible extension. Discussions must be completed by the due date/time because posts and responses after that time are not part of the collaborative work of the discussion.

MLIS PROGRAM E-PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT

An E-Portfolio is required for graduation by all students. You might consider including the assessment report in your portfolio.

COURSE GRADES

Course grades will be awarded as follows:

- A: 90%–100%
- B: 80%–89%
- C: 70%–79%
- D: 60%–69%
- F: Lower than 60%

No grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree and students must receive a grade of B or better to earn credit in core courses and the required collection development elective. You must complete all assignments to earn an A in this course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

VSU requires that you attend class in the first week. [Insert first week attendance requirement for this course.] All course activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW [and/or other platform(s) as designated by the instructor]. Course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is your responsibility to participate in all course activities and submit assignments on time. It is in your best interest to log into the course at least several times each week (daily is best) to check announcements, discussion board posts, and emails.

COMMUNICATION

Communication will be conducted through BlazeVIEW email, postings and replies in the discussion board, and/or 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. I am happy to meet with you on Microsoft Teams if you wish; please email me so that we can find a time that works for both of us.

VSU requires that all correspondence between the student and the instructor be conducted through official university channels. To that end, all email correspondence related to this course is to be sent using the email client built into the BlazeVIEW course website. For other correspondence with any VSU faculty members or administrative offices, please use your VSU email account. I do my best to answer email and discussion board questions within 48 hours, Monday through Friday.

PROFESSIONALISM

The Department of Library and Information Studies expects you to pursue your academic endeavors and conduct yourself in a professional and ethical manner. All work submitted in the course must represent your own efforts. Cite sources and include reference information. You should communicate in a professional manner in both speech and writing and maintain a professional attitude, being respectful to others and their viewpoints. Exercise an awareness of the pervasiveness of the online environment and strive to maintain a professional online presence.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/student-handbook.php>) and the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism (<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php>). All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics. Consequences for acts of academic dishonesty are detailed in the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism.

VSU's Academic Student Conduct Code states that "no student shall engage in plagiarism, which is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were the student's own." Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper citation is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

For more information, visit Academic Honesty at VSU (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsuh.php>).

STUDENT OPINION OF INSTRUCTION SURVEY

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/>).

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND TITLE IX STATEMENT

Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Ms. Selenseia Holmes. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Christina Kidd, Student Conduct Coordinator at chkidd@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

Helpful Links

Technical Support (IT helpdesk)	https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/
Center for eLearning (support for BlazeVIEW)	https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/
Academic Support Center	https://www.valdosta.edu/asc/
Hope Connect (Mental Health Services)	https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/hope-connect-about.php