VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCINCE
MLIS 7130 Humanities Information Sources
Syllabus—Summer Semester 2006
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:
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Catalog Description

Prerequisites: MLIS 7100 or consent of the instructor. Examination of processes and resources used to provide reference services in the humanities disciplines. The fields of art, communications, literature, history, languages, linguistics, music, philosophy, religion, and the theater will be considered.

Course Outcomes

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

- Utilize a variety of print and electronic resources in the humanities
- Assess research needs in the humanities and describe how information professionals may meet those needs
- Utilize a working knowledge of the literature in each of the selected disciplines of the humanities
- Identify appropriate resources for humanities collection development

Textbook

Blazek, Ron and Elizabeth Aversa. *The Humanities: A Selective Guide to Information Sources, 5th ed*. Libraries Unlimited, 2000.
ISBN: 1-56308-602-6 (paperback)

(A word about this book: It is *the definitive* bibliography for reference sources in the humanities. We will be using selected pages from it, not the entire volume. So, if you are working in a library that owns the 5th edition, use it. If your library doesn't own the 5th edition, you might want to request that it be purchased. If you are not working in a library, check the college or public library nearest you for the book's availability. You can photocopy what you need for this course. If you want to buy the book for your own personal collection, feel free to do so.)

Instructor Availability & Support

Dr. Ondrusek checks her e-mail and telephone messages at least once daily throughout normal business hours (M-F, 9-5) when discussions are in progress and when graded assignments are pending. By institutional policy, instructors are asked to communicate with students online through VSU accounts (Vista and BlazeNet e-mail). All discussion posts and assignment submissions for this online course <u>must</u> be sent via WebCT/Vista.

In the case that we encounter technical problems with the WebCT software, group e-mail assignments will be routed through BlazeNet. Opening and finding the MLIS 7130 BlazeNet account is, therefore, required. Your BlazeNet login and password serve as your WebCT/Vista login and password. The BlazeNet login page is at http://luminis.valdosta.edu/cp/home/loginf. For instructions on using a student BlazeNet account, go to: http://www.valdosta.edu/blazenet/email-trans/help_stu.html.

Attendance

This is a Web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings and no required synchronous online times.

Requirements

As a student in this class, you are expected to: (1) do all reading assignments and participate in the electronic discussions thereof; (2) examine the reference materials assigned and complete the accompanying exercises; (3) submit all projects on time and according to the format designated by the instructor; and (4) schedule time for in-person visits to a library in order to fulfill the print reference examinations.

Online Discussion 1	10%
Online Discussion 2	20%
Material (Print/Online) Examination Exercises	50%
Final Examination	20%

Grading

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

On individual course requirements, the instructor may assign plus and minus grades using this numerical scale:
A = 4.0   A minus = 3.7   B plus = 3.5   B = 3.0   B minus = 2.7   C plus = 2.5   C = 2.0

Technical Requirements

All class materials will be placed on a password-protected Web site using the Vista/WebCT course management program. If you are a new Vista user, go to the Vista help pages at http://www.valdosta.edu/vista/. On the right margin are "Self Help" links. View the "Getting Started" tutorial first. Then return to the Vista page and login using your BlazeNet email ID and password.

To meet all class requirements, you should also be prepared to: (1) check the Vista/WebCT course homepage several times a week, sometimes daily, if a course discussion is in progress; (2) locate additional course readings using the GALILEO databases and download or print these out (this requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer); and (3) keep electronic backup copies of each assignment and project you submit.

All assignments must be submitted using a program compatible with VSU supported products. MS Word is the preferred document format. The OpenSource project makes available a free set of programs called the OpenOffice suite which includes a word processing program compatible with MS Word. You can download the entire OpenOffice Suite from the Web site <http://www.openoffice.org/>. WordPerfect 12 allows you to save your documents as Word documents. If you are using a lower version of WordPerfect or the OpenOffice word processor, save your documents in Rich Text Format (rtf). Pasting your text into an e-mail is not an acceptable solution and will not be accepted by Dr. Ondrusek.

The university's Information Technology department provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU's email and other sources. The IT Help Desk is at http://www.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/guides/ and their phone hot line is 229-245-4357.

Distance Learning Support

A VSU reference librarian, Ms. Shiloh Smith, is responsible for coordinating library services for off-campus VSU students. She may be reached by email at shismith@valdosta.edu or by phone at 229-245-3717. An online guide for distance education students is on the Odum Library Web site at http://books.valdosta.edu/dist/dmain.html. A brochure for off-campus students provides valuable links to the reference desk and to the library's rather new reference chat service.

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*. Please acquaint yourself with the full VSU policy on academic dishonesty at http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/Academic_Dishonesty.html.

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 the 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 (tx).

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.