

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7170 Health Sciences Librarianship
Syllabus
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:

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Catalog Description

An overview of the environments in which health sciences librarians practice. Aspects of those environments will include characteristics of clientele and their unique information needs; collection development and specialized reference tools; information access and access issues; standards, regulations, and certifications affecting education and accreditation; and special programs administered by health sciences librarians.

Course Outcomes

Each student will demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify those aspects of information delivery that are unique to the operations of a health sciences library
- Recognize formats commonly employed to furnish health sciences information
- Locate key sources of, and access points to, reliable health sciences information
- Use standard tools available for finding the medical terms needed for assisting clients in a health sciences library
- Relate opportunities for librarians specializing in health sciences services to personal skills and goals

About This Course . . .

This course presents a survey of the roles and services with which librarians in settings that support health sciences education or health care services should be familiar. For students who are candidates in the VSU MLIS Program considering the Health Sciences Librarianship track, this course is required. The course is also an appropriate elective for MLIS students interested in information sources and services related to health and medicine. It also lays the foundation for those practicing librarians who are considering career moves to health sciences librarianship or librarians in the process of making a transition to a position related to the delivery of health information.

Textbook

Wood, Sandra M. *Introduction to Health Sciences Librarianship*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-7890-3596-7 (Paperback) ISBN: 978-0-7890-3595-0 (Hard Cover)

Note: The VSU Bookstore placed an order for 5 copies of the book. If you want quick, dependable service, or are buying your books with Financial Aid money, place your order through the VSU Bookstore.

A copy of the textbook (listed above) is on Reserve for this semester in the Odum Library on the Valdosta State University campus. By mutual agreement between the MLIS Program and the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) office in the Odum Library, required textbooks for courses offered this semester will not be available for interlibrary loan. ILL staff in the Odum Library are **not** responsible for obtaining books that are required texts for any VSU student during any given semester. The complete MLIS Policy on Interlibrary Loan Requests for Textbooks is at: http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/student_resources/documents/ILL_Textbooks.pdf

Instructor Availability & Support

Dr. Ondrusek checks her e-mail and telephone messages at least once daily throughout normal business hours (M-F, 9-5). By institutional policy, instructors are asked to communicate with students online through VSU accounts (WebCT/Vista and BlazeNet e-mail). If you are registered for the course as a non-degree student, a BlazeNet account will be assigned to you for this semester. Your BlazeNet login and password serve as your WebCT/Vista login and password. All discussion posts and assignment submissions for this online course must be sent via WebCT/Vista.

Attendance

This is a Web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings. The instructor reserves the option of scheduling live chat or Live Classroom (a product that allows voice over the Internet) sessions for additional instruction if such instruction seems necessary and can be mutually arranged between her and the members of the class.

Course Activities Overview

Discussion Board Participation

Participation in four discussions is expected. Your contributions to two of those discussions will be graded. Guidelines will be given on the WebCT site.

Examinations

Two exams are to be completed. Background materials and guidelines for completing each exam will be given on the WebCT site. **Treat these as tests – collaboration is not allowed.**

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Exercise

You will be asked to complete a PBL exercise dealing with interpreting a systematic review. This is a small-group activity meant to introduce you to the PBL method of teaching that is in use in many medical schools. Collaboration within your group and sharing with the class as a whole will be conducted using discussion, chat, and, possibly, Live Classroom. Complete instructions will be given on the WebCT site.

Profile of a Health Information Professional

Select a health information professional for observation and interviewing. This must be someone whose role includes providing health information in a health sciences environment either to clients or students (e.g., hospital or health center librarian; nurse-educator; information officer in a clinical setting; or other job title approved by Dr. Ondrusek). It must also be someone to whom you may have access for a few hours in order to observe that person's work responsibilities. After the observation, you will collect responses to questions (a set of interview questions will be provided) by e-mail, phone, or in-person. Synthesize your findings into a "profile" of that professional which will include background information on that particular job role, answers to the interview questions, and a "Day in the Life of" characterization (fashioned on the examples given in your textbook). A list of possible visitation "hosts" and more particulars on content requirements will be posted on the WebCT site.

Assignment Calendar

Week(s) of: *Activities:*

Weeks 1-2 Introduction to the Profession
Aug. 18 and Read Wood text: Chapters 1 and 2.
Aug. 25 View material on the WebCT course site.

Take the "**Learning Styles**" survey. Results will be used to place you in groups.
Use the "**Introduce Yourself**" discussion board to say "hello" to all.
Questions? Use the "**Diagnosis Learning**" discussion board for answers.

Begin to think about who you want to use as the subject of your
Profile of a Health Information Professional project.

Weeks 3-4 Roles of Librarians in Health Information Settings
Sept. 2 and Read Wood text: Chapters 7, 14, and 13.
Sept. 8 (Recommend you read chapters in that order)
 View material on the WebCT course site.

Graded Discussion: Respond to each question posted on the Discussion Board called "**Health Librarians' Roles**".

Send Dr. Ondrusek the name and contact information for the subject of your
Profile of a Health Information Professional. Use WebCT e-mail.
Await approval from Dr. Ondrusek before conducting your visitation.

Weeks 5-6 Research and Writing Weeks
Sept. 15 and Read and comment upon the "**Health Librarians Roles**" posts.
Sept. 22 Conduct your observation and interview for your **Profile**.
 Write and submit your **Profile of a Health Information Professional**.

Discussion Board closes: Sun., Sept. 28, at 11:59 pm.

Profile due: Mon., Sept. 29. Tues. Sept. 30 is one-day grace period.
Submissions received after 11:59 pm on Sept. 30th will be marked down.

Weeks 7-8
Sept. 29 and
Oct. 6

Language of Medical Classification

Read Wood text: Chapter 6 first, then Chapter 5.
View material on the WebCT course site.
Complete the self-learning tutorials on Medical Terminology
(links to the tutorials are in the Weeks 7-8 folder).

Online Exam: Available starting Mon., Oct. 6. Closes Sun. Oct. 12, 11:59 pm.
This is a test of your learning – collaboration is not authorized.

Oct. 13-14

Fall Break (Dr. Ondrusek will be at GA COMO from Oct. 15-17)

Weeks 9-11
Oct. 15 and
Oct. 20 and
Oct. 27

Collection Development

Read Wood text: Chapters 3, 4, and 18.
Chapter 12 is excellent, but optional. It will not be on the Exam.
View material on the WebCT course site.

Exam: Available starting Mon., Oct. 20 (see WebCT folder for that week).
This is a test of your learning – collaboration is not authorized.

Exam due: Mon., Nov. 3. Tues. Nov. 4 is one-day grace period.
Submissions received after 11:59 pm on Nov. 4th will be marked down.

Week 12-13
Nov 3 and
Nov. 10

Teaching in a Health Information Setting

Read Wood text: Chapter 11 (pp. 241-252) – read this first.
Next, read Chapter 10.
View material on the WebCT course site.

Dr. Ondrusek will assign you to a small group in order to carry out the
Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Exercise.

The PBL exercise will follow the form used in the “Problem-Based Learning Example” found in the box on p. 224 in your textbook.

Graded Discussion: Report your progress as you work through this problem on the Discussion Board called “**PBL Rounds**”. Collaboration is what drives PBL. It is encouraged and necessary to the success of this project.

PBL Reports Discussion Board closes: Sun., Nov. 16, at 11:59 pm.

Weeks 14-15
Nov. 17

PBL Follow-up

A “post-mortem” of the PBL activity will be scheduled according to class members’ availability using chat or Live Classroom.

Self-Assessment Post: Required, but ungraded activity.
Tell us what class activities you found most motivating, most challenging, most rewarding. In what areas of health information librarianship do you feel most confident? In what areas do you see a need for more self-learning? How do you see yourself using what you have learned? Self Assessment Board closes Sun., Nov. 30, at 11:59 pm.

Graded Course Requirements

As a student in this class, you are expected to: (1) read or view all assigned background materials; (2) participate in all assigned discussion groups; (3) submit all projects on time and according to the format designated by the instructor; and (4) conduct your research and composition according to the rules of academic integrity (see Academic Dishonesty section on page 6).

Opening “Say Hello” Post (required but not graded)	
Closing Self-Assessment Post (required but not graded)	
Profile of a Health Information Professional	25%
Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Rounds	20%
Graded Discussion 1: Health Librarians’ Roles	10%
Graded Discussion 2: PBL Post Mortem	5%
Exam 1: Language of Medical Classification	20%
Exam 2: Collection Development	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.

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 is responsible for coordinating library services for off-campus VSU students. That librarian’s email and phone contact will be provided to you at the start of this semester. An online guide for distance education students is on the Odum Library Web site at http://www.valdosta.edu/library/services/revise_students.pdf.

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 policy at <http://coefaculty.valdosta.edu/trout/eced4300/Academic%20Dishonesty.doc>.

It is **your responsibility** to make sure you understand how to avoid breeches of academic integrity. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to post rules for citing, quoting, or ethical exchange of information for every assignment. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.

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 (ttv).

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.