VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY& INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7550 Library Systems and Automation
Syllabus--Fall Semester 2008
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:
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Course Description:

Prerequisite or corequisite: MLIS 7000 or consent of the instructor. Introduces fundamental concepts of computer systems automation in libraries and information centers. This course covers the historical context of applying computing systems to libraries, addresses the technologies behind integrated library systems, and surveys an array of topics related to management of automated computer systems.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion the student will be able to:

- Assess evolution of computer systems automation and current state of automated library systems
- Develop familiarity with integrated library systems components and assess its needs and priorities
- Apply computer systems in a networked environment for dissemination of information.
- Explain basic technology axioms
- Address the role of information standards on automated library systems design
- Address the role of integrated library systems and networks in information practices
- Evaluate current technology trends and issues in computer systems automation
- Evaluate future solutions involving libraries and their end users
- Form informed technology (e.g., hardware, software) decisions
- Explain principles of managing a library system project including planning, migration, design and development, and implementation.

Class Activities: Include the followings:

Selected readings from text
Selected readings from journal articles

An individual research paper from readings
A group project after visiting some library systems department
An individual paper after hearing from the guest speaker and
Regular proactive attendance on online discussions

Reading assignments from both the text and journal articles will provide students with fundamental understanding of today's integrated library systems, critical issues, and current trends. This will form a strong theoretical base in library systems technology trends and foster research appetite to manage the systems efficiently that will in turn motivate the students towards writing an individual research paper. The purpose of writing the individual research paper is to apply the knowledge and confidence that they gathered through readings. A group project will address the real world scenario of a library systems department. Students will visit a number of library systems with different settings and write a paper highlighting systems functionalities, interaction with other departments, fund allocation, budgetary policy and issues, assessment and evaluation of services, future technology plan and services and a status on Request for Proposal (RFP) document. They will then compare and contrast their findings with Koha, an open source ILS (Integrated Library System) to simulate a real world scenario. Four individual guest speakers including a library dean, an associate director of the entire systems operation, a library systems manager and a library programmer will address the library systems and automation issues from their practical experience. The purpose of this lecture is to simulate a real time library systems department from the perspective of an individual contributor to the decision-maker and is to provide an opportunity to the students to ask questions to refine their theoretical and practical skills. Students will write an individual paper after hearing from the guest speaker to demonstrate their understandings. A regular proactive attendance on online discussions are required that will allow students to share and disseminate the technical terms and issues surrounding library systems with the instructor and to apply them in theory and practice.

Text Book:

Planning for Integrated Systems and Technologies. A How-To-Do-It Manual for
        Librarians. John M. Cohn, Ann L. Kelsey, and Keith Fiels. Neal-Schulman
        Publishers, Inc. 2001 ISBN: 1-55570-421-2

Journal Articles/other:

In working progress, will include soon.

Grading: Grades will be calculated as follows:
• Participation: 10%
• Readings & Discussions: 20%
• Individual Research Paper from readings: 20%
• Individual Research Paper from the lecture: 20%
• Group Project (Library visit and Koha application): 30%
Final grades will be assigned as follows:

• A – 91 - 100
• B – 81 - 90
• C – 71 - 80
• D – 61 - 70
• F – 0 - 60

Policies:

Please become aware of and be guided by VSU policies and procedures at
• http://valdosta.edu/mlis/student_resources/