

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7800 Capstone
Syllabus—Fall Semester 2008
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:

George R. Gaumond, Ph. D.
Odum Library—1500 N. Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31698-0150

Phone: 229/333-5860
FAX: 229/259-5055
E-mail: gaumond@valdosta.edu

Course Description

Capstone is required for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MLIS degree. Emphasis will be on synthesis of knowledge, honing writing and presentation skills, and creating a professional development plan.

Course Objectives

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

1. Synthesize knowledge gained throughout the course of study and apply that knowledge to the consideration of current professional issues.
2. Make an effective professional presentation.
3. Write a paper of publishable quality.
4. Create a professional development plan.
5. Navigate the job hunting process.
6. Articulate personal professional goals.

Course Prerequisite or Corequisite: Taken during the final semester of study

Required Text

Rubin, Richard E. *Foundations of Library and Information Science*. New York: Neal Schuman. The edition you used in *Foundations* will be fine.

Assignments

Major presentation and paper: You will prepare a conference-style presentation and a paper of publishable quality on a topic of your choice, with the topic subject to instructor approval. Presentations will last 15-20 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions and discussion. Paper length and style will depend on topic and on requirements of appropriate publication venues. Paper topic selection is due September 7. Draft due November 30. Optional rehearsal or “dry run” of presentation can be scheduled on December 6 or 7 in Macon, or using LiveClassroom on December 8, 9 or 10. Presentation and final paper are due at class on December 12, 2008.

Portfolio: You will update, present and discuss your portfolio. Bring your portfolio to class in Macon on August 23. Feedback will be provided by the instructor and classmates. Discussion and sharing of portfolio issues should occur via WebCT Vista. Revised portfolios are due on December 12. After grading and review by other faculty members, your portfolio will be returned by mail or package service.

Professional Development Plan: Each student will create and record a personal plan for professional development. For students who need to seek employment, this will include a detailed job-hunting plan. For all students, this will include plans for solidifying and updating their professional knowledge in the two-year period following graduation. Submit via WebCT Vista no later than October 5, 2008.

Reflection on MLIS Experience: Each student will prepare an essay that reflects on and evaluates his or her experience with the MLIS degree program. The essay will include the student's determination of strengths and weaknesses within the program. Submit via WebCT Vista no later than November 2, 2008.

Current Issues Discussions: There will be six current issues discussions lasting one week. You or your team will moderate a class discussion a current issue in LIS. You will use a topic that has appeared in LIS or popular literature during the past year. Current issue topics will be discussed at the Macon Class. Topics are due for approval on August 29. The first topic will be selected at the first class. For each topic, you will identify pieces of published literature that state all sides of the issue and you will prepare one or more questions to guide the discussion.

Requirements

Presentation	25%	Prof Dev Plan	10%
Paper	25%	Reflective Essay	15%
Portfolio	15%	Current Issues Discussions	10%

Grading

General Grading Scale

- A** excellent work - among the best work seen at the graduate level
- B** satisfactory work - better than average work at the graduate level
- C** honest attempt - needs moderate to major revisions to be satisfactory
- D** perfunctory or missing work

Late work is dropped one letter grade

Final Grading Scale

- A** - always satisfactory, often excellent
- B** - mostly satisfactory, occasionally excellent
- C** - sometimes satisfactory, often needs revisions
- D** - rarely satisfactory, often perfunctory, late or missing
- F** - lacking even an attempt to learn or do, dishonesty, plagiarism

Calendar and Agenda

This is primarily a WebCT Vista class with an initial face-to-face class in Macon and the final paper presentation in a face-to-face session before the faculty on Friday, December 12, at Valdosta. Weeks are numbered Monday to Sunday.

- Class 1: Saturday, August 23, 10 AM to 5 PM, Macon State College
Introductions
Assignments for the term
Discuss Rubin Text
Portfolio discussion
Current Issues Topics
- Week 1: Sunday, August 24, First Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 2: August 25-August 31, First Current Issue Discussion
Friday, August 29, Current Issue Topics due in WebCT
August 31, Second Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 3: September 1-September 7, Second Current Issue Discussion
September 7, Third Current Issue Topic posted
Sunday, September 7, Paper Topics due
- Week 4: September 8-September 14, Third Current Issue Discussion
September 14, Fourth Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 5: September 15-September 21, Fourth Current Issue Discussion
September 21, Fifth Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 6: September 22-September 28, Fifth Current Issue Discussion
September 28, Sixth Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 7: September 29-October 5, Sixth Current Issue Discussion
Sunday, October 5, Professional Development Plan due
- Week 8: Mid-term of semester, Thursday, October 9
- Week 9: Fall Break, October 13-October 14
Sunday, October 19, Current Issues Summary due

Week 10: No assignments due.

Week 11: Sunday, November 2, Experience Essay due

Weeks 12, 13, & 14: No assignments due.

Week 15: Thanksgiving Holiday, November 26-28
Sunday, November 30, Paper Drafts due

Week 16: Saturday/Sunday, December 6/7, Optional Paper rehearsal, Macon

Week 17: December 8, 9, 10, Optional paper rehearsal, LiveClassroom
Friday, December 12, Capstone Presentation, Meeting Room,
Room 1604, Odum Library, Valdosta State University
Portfolio due and Paper due

Deadline for dropping the class without academic penalty is Friday, June 29.

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*.

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 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.

Attendance

This is a Web-delivered course with a final face-to-face class. All assignments and discussions utilize WebCT Vista. Your participation is integral to the course design; therefore, it is expected that students will make consistent, contributive participation a high priority. **If you are compelled to miss a scheduled assignment, you must negotiate a mutually acceptable alternative with the instructor to make a passing grade.**