**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY**
**MASTER OF LIBRARY& INFORMATION SCIENCE**
**MLIS 7800 Capstone**
**Syllabus—Spring Semester 2009**
Three Credit Hours

**Instructor:**

George R. Gaumond, Ph. D.                     Phone: 229/333-5860
Odum Library—1500 N. Patterson Street         FAX: 229/259-5055
Valdosta, GA  31698-0150                       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 February 1.  Draft due April 26.  Optional rehearsal or "dry run" of presentation can be scheduled on May 2 or 3 in Macon, or using LiveClassroom on May 4, 5, or 6.  Presentation and final paper are due at class on May 7 or 8.

**Portfolio**: You will update, present and discuss your portfolio. Bring your portfolio to class in Atlanta on January 17, 2009. 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 May 7 or 8, 2009. 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 March 1, 2009.

**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 Web CT Vista no later than March 29, 2009.

**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 Atlanta Class. Topics are due for approval on January 23, 2009. 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. Each team will summarize its discussion in WebCT Vista no later than March 8, 2009.

**Requirements**

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

**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 Atlanta and the final paper presentation in a face-to-face session before the faculty on Thursday or Friday, May 7 or 8, at Valdosta. Weeks are numbered Monday to Sunday.

Class 1:       Saturday, January 17, 10 AM to 4 PM, Atlanta Fulton County Public
               Library, Third Floor Conference Room
               Introductions
               Assignments for the term
               Discuss Rubin Text
               Portfolio discussion
               Current Issues Topics

Week 1:        Sunday, January 18, First Current Issue Topic posted

Week 2:        January 19-January 25, First Current Issue Discussion
               Friday, January 23, Current Issue Topics due in WebCT
               January 25, Second Current Issue Topic posted

Week 3:        January 26-February 1, Second Current Issue Discussion
               February 1, Third Current Issue Topic posted
               Sunday, February 1, Paper Topics due

Week 4:        February 2-February 8, Third Current Issue Discussion
               February 8, Fourth Current Issue Topic posted

Week 5:        February 9-February 15, Fourth Current Issue Discussion
               February 15, Fifth Current Issue Topic posted

Week 6:        February 16-February 22, Fifth Current Issue Discussion
               February 22, Sixth Current Issue Topic posted

Week 7:        February 23-March 1, Sixth Current Issue Discussion
               Sunday, March 1, Professional Development Plan due

Week 8:        Mid-term of semester, Wednesday, March 4
               Sunday, March 8, Current Issues Summary due

Week 9:       No assignments due

Week 10:      Spring Break

Week 11:      Sunday, March 29, Experience Essay due

Weeks 12, 13, & 14:  No assignments due

Week 15:      Sunday, April 26, Paper Drafts due

Week 16:      Saturday/Sunday, May 2/3, Optional Paper rehearsal, Macon

Week 17:      May 4, 5, 6, Optional paper rehearsal, LiveClassroom
              Thursday/Friday, May 7/8, 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 Midterm.*

**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.**