

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7430 Information Literacy
SYLLABUS
Spring Semester 2013
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:

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Catalog Description

An examination of the information literacy movement from its origins in library instruction to the learning theories and teaching practices that shape its current standards. The information literacy model used in academic libraries will be emphasized.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

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

- Articulate rationales and principles driving the library instruction movement
- Identify teaching methods and learning theories associated with the current library instruction movement
- Describe the differing groups of library users served by instructional programs
- Locate the current standards that serve as the basis for developing instructional programs
- Locate sources that provide examples of instructional methods suitable for librarians
- Create lesson plans based upon instructional objectives and learning theories
- Deliver an instructional presentation based on those theories/objectives apropos to a particular library user group
- Recognize/realize own personal learning and teaching preferences/styles

About This Course . . .

In academic circles, information literacy has become the centerpiece for the continuing discourse on the role that librarians should assume in the educational spheres of instruction, curriculum, and faculty development. Its primary goal is to prepare graduates to find, evaluate, and use information as “citizens” in an increasingly information-rich society. School librarians have committed to this same concept under the name *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner*. In public libraries, the concept of “lifelong learning” forms the basis for many programs such as computer training and reading clubs, again, aiming to empower people as information users. In addition, public librarians are often the mediators in helping the library’s users to retrieve and interpret information needed for projects related to academics, work, or personal needs. Practitioners tend to focus on the instructional aspects of information literacy, often using the term “information literacy instruction” when discussing this topic. How people learn, how librarians can help them learn, what professional organizations have done to codify the library’s role in this process, and the program development issues to be considered in order to bring all these elements together provide the content for this course.

Textbook

Grassian, Esther S., and Joan R. Kaplowitz. *Information Literacy Instruction: Theory and Practice*. **Second Edition**. New York: Neal-Schuman, a subsidiary of ALA, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-1555706661. Available used – you do not need the CD-ROM. Make sure you purchase the second edition – it is much enhanced over the first edition.

Please familiarize yourself with the MLIS policy that prohibits the use of VSU's Interlibrary Loan service for obtaining textbooks 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 (BlazeView and VSU e-mail). If you are registered for the course as a non-degree student, a VSU email account will be assigned to you for this semester.

All discussion posts and assignment submissions for this online course must be sent via BlazeView. Your VSU email username serves as your BlazeVIEW login. The BlazeVIEW password requires at least one capital letter in it. See the section on "Technical Requirements" on page 3 of this syllabus for contact information in the case you need technical help.

Attendance

This is a Web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings. The instructor will schedule real-time instruction using tools in BlazeVIEW such as Live Classroom.

Presentations using Live Classroom are required at the end of the semester. These presentations are mandatory and attendance at the entire session in which you present is required.

Graded Requirements*

Discussion Posts (2 at 15 points each)	30 points
Instructional Mode Exercise	20 points
Assessment Exercise	5 points
Teaching Presentation	30 points
Peer Review of a Classmate's Presentation	5 points
Self Evaluation of Your Presentation	5 points
Final Reflection: Your Philosophy of Teaching	5 points

*Specifics on each graded requirement are included in the "Assignment Calendar" document

100 – 90 points = A 89 – 80 points = B 79 – 70 points = C 69-60 points = D Below 60 points = F

No grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree.

To be eligible for an A in this course requires completing every assignment.

By VSU policy, course instructors may consider requests for a grade of Incomplete only if the majority of assignments have been submitted and documentation is provided before grades are due to the Registrar's office to show why assignments due after midterm could not be completed.

Letter 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

Technical Requirements

All class materials will be placed on a password-protected Web site using the BlazeVIEW course management program. If you are a new BlazeVIEW user, go to the BlazeVIEW help pages at <http://www.valdosta.edu/vista/students.shtml>. Then return to the BlazeVIEW page and login using your BlazeVIEW ID and password.

To meet all class requirements, you should be prepared to: (1) open and save or print all documents that are required background reading - this requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer; (2) view all PowerPoints placed on the course BlazeVIEW site – these are saved to **Powerpoint 97-2003** and will open in all higher versions; (3) participate in Live Classroom sessions; (4) check discussion groups as needed; and (5) keep electronic backup copies of each assignment and project you submit.

Unless otherwise stated, assignments must be submitted using a word processing program compatible with Microsoft (MS) Word. BlazeVIEW accepts attached documents in **MS Word 97-2003 or higher**. If you are using WordPerfect or sharing documents with classmates who have a different version of Word, save your documents in Rich Text Format (rtf). The instructor returns documents that cannot be opened on VSU equipment.

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.

Late or Missing Submissions

I use a progressive point deduction system for late submission of work whereby for the first assignment submitted late, I will deduct at least 1 point. The second late submission will lose at least 2 points. If you submit late a third time, you will lose at least 3 points, and so forth. If you inform me of extenuating circumstances **before** the deadline, we can work out a solution for submitting an assignment without penalty. Completely skipping an assignment is not acceptable in graduate school. To be eligible for an A in this course requires completing every assignment. See page 5 for policy on requests for an Incomplete.

Academic Honesty

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.

The *Guide to Ethical Conduct* is a booklet created for VSU MLIS students (http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/student_resources/documents/GuidetoEthicalConductWebversion.pdf).

It contains guidelines on appropriate conduct and outlines the ethical principles that instruct the profession of library and information science.

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://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>.

It is **your responsibility** to make sure you understand how to avoid breeches of academic integrity. The instructor posts rules for citing, quoting, and appropriate use of resources for assignments that require written compositions, reviews, or commentary.

Noncompliance with rules on appropriate use of resources will result in zero credit for those parts of the assignment affected. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.

Asking librarians or staff in a library to provide answers or to conduct research to fulfill any part of a graded course requirement is an infraction of academic integrity. The same policy applies to contacting any free or commercial reference service for assistance with a graded assignment.

An overall grade of zero can be assigned to an entire paper or project if the instructor determines that its contents, or parts of its contents, were completed by a second party. This, of course, does not apply to group projects that require collaboration on a final product.

Distance Learning Support

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.

To ask questions about **availability or location of VSU online resources**, use the VSU Library's Live Chat or E-mail at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/library/ask.php>. You may also phone the VSU Library's reference service at (229) 333-7149.

Equal Opportunity 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.

Special Needs Statement

From VSU's Access Office (<http://www.valdosta.edu/access/facresources.shtml>): Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). For more information, please visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/access/> or email: access@valdosta.edu.

Student Agreements

Enrollment in this class signifies that you agree 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 if extraordinary circumstances arise during the course of the semester.

By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to SafeAssign, a tool within BlazeVIEW. For more information on the use of SafeAssign at VSU see [SafeAssign for Students \(http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/SafeAssignforStudents.shtml\)](http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/SafeAssignforStudents.shtml).

Important Dates

Monday, January 7: First day of classes. BlazeVIEW sites open for distance learning students.

Friday, January 11: Drop-add period ends.

Monday, January 21: Martin Luther King Day. All VSU services closed, including the Odum Library.

Thursday, February 28: Midterm. **Last day to withdraw from a class without academic penalty.**

Incompletes: If you have not submitted assignments due up to this point in the semester, you are not eligible for an Incomplete at the end of the semester. Informing your instructor that you plan to withdraw does not remove you from the course. You must request withdrawal through the office of the VSU Registrar. Contact your advisor and plan to withdraw from the course before 5 pm on February 28th.

March 18-22: Spring Break – Most University services closed. The Odum Library is open.

May 3: Spring semester ends. Graduation ceremony for the VSU Graduate School begins at 6 pm.

Assignment Calendar

You will find a week-by-week assignment calendar that highlights readings and activities and lists due dates for all assignments in the BlazeVIEW website.

Assignment Due Dates at a Glance (add one-day grace periods to each due date).

Wednesday, January 23: Post #1. Influences on Learning.

Wednesday, February 6: Post #2. Learning by Viewing.

Wednesday, February 20: Post #3. Modality Makeover. Attach handout.

Monday, February 25, 8pm: Live Classroom 1. Definitions and Models of Instruction.

Wednesday, February 27: Post #4. Assessment of Learning. Attach sample assessment.

Monday, March 4, 8pm: Live Classroom 2. Standards and Tools of Instruction.

To be submitted only by those students who could not attend the live sessions:

Wednesday, March 6: Post #5. Commentary on Live Classroom 1.

Wednesday, March 13: Post #6. Commentary on Live Classroom 2.

Wednesday, March 13: Post #7. Topic of your teaching presentation and a learning objective.

Wednesday, April 3: Lesson Plan Draft. Required, not graded.

Week of April 15-19: Teaching Presentations, accompanying handout, and final Lesson Plan.

Friday, April 26: A peer review, a self-review, and a philosophy of teaching statement.