Dewar College of Education and Human Services
Valdosta State University
Department of Library and Information Studies

MLIS 7280
Community Building in Libraries & Information Centers
Three Credit Hours

Guiding Principles (DEPOSITS)

(Adapted from the Georgia Systemic Teacher Education Program Accomplished Teacher Framework)

Dispositions Principle: Productive dispositions positively affect learners, professional growth, and the learning environment.

Equity Principle: All learners deserve high expectations and support.

Process Principle: Learning is a lifelong process of development and growth.

Ownership Principle: Professionals are committed to and assume responsibility for the future of their disciplines.

Support Principle: Successful engagement in the process of learning requires collaboration among multiple partners.

Impact Principle: Effective practice yields evidence of learning.

Technology Principle: Technology facilitates teaching, learning, community-building, and resource acquisition.

Standards Principle: Evidence-based standards systematically guide professional preparation and development.

ALA's Core Competences of Librarianship

(extracted from ALA's Core Competences of Librarianship 2009, available from http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/sites/ala.org.educationcareers/files/content/careers/corecomp /corecompetences/finalcorecompstat09.pdf)

1. <u>Foundations of the Profession</u>: The librarian understands the role of library and information professionals in the promotion of democratic principles and intellectual freedom (including freedom of expression, thought, and conscience), the legal framework within which libraries and information agencies operate; and the certification and/or licensure requirements of specialized areas of the profession.

2. <u>Information Resources</u>: The librarian understands the concepts and issues related to the lifecycle of recorded knowledge and information; the acquisition and disposition of resources; and the management and maintenance of various collections.

3. <u>Organization of Recorded Knowledge and Information</u>: The librarian understands and uses the principles involved in the organization, representation, and classification of recorded knowledge and information.

4. <u>Technological Knowledge and Skills</u>: The librarian understands and uses information, communication, assistive, and related technologies consistent with professional ethics and prevailing service norms and applications.

5. <u>Reference and User Services</u>: The librarian understands and uses the concepts, principles, and techniques of reference and user services to provide access to relevant and accurate recorded knowledge and information to individuals of all ages and groups.

6. <u>Research</u>: The librarian understands and uses the fundamentals of quantitative and qualitative research methods to evaluate and assess the actual and potential value of new research.

7. <u>Professionalism</u>. The librarian understands the necessity of continuing professional development of practitioners in libraries and other information agencies; the role of the library in the lifelong learning of patrons; and the application of learning theories, instructional methods, and achievement measures in libraries and other information agencies.

8. <u>Administration and Management</u>: The librarian understands the principles of planning and budgeting in libraries and other information agencies; the principles of effective personnel practices and human resource development; the assessment and evaluation of library services and their outcomes; and the issues relating to, and methods for, principled, transformational leadership.

MLIS Program Objectives (PO)

Graduates of the MLIS Program will:

PO 1. Perform administrative, service, and technical functions of professional practice in libraries and information centers by demonstrating skills in information resources, reference and user services, administration and management, and organization of recorded knowledge and information. *[ALA CORE COMPETENCES 1,2,3,5,8]*

PO 2. Use existing and emerging technologies to meet needs in libraries and information centers. *[ALA CORE COMPETENCES 4]*

PO 3. Integrate relevant research to enhance their work in libraries and information centers. *[ALA CORE COMPETENCES 6]*

PO 4. Demonstrate professionalism as librarians or information specialists. *[ALA CORE COMPETENCES 7]*

INSTRUCTOR

Lenese M. Colson, Ph. D.
Odum Library Room 4600
Phone: 229-219-3403
E-mail: lcolson@valdosta.edu
Office Hours: Tu/Th 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm; W 8:00 am-12 pm
Website: https://www.valdosta.edu/about/directory/profile/lcolson

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Based upon theoretical and pragmatic aspects of community building through libraries in areas such as social services, social learning/media, civic engagement, cultural enrichment, and the creative spirit.

TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS
Required Text

Edwards, J. B., Robinson, M. S., & Unger, K. R. (2013). *Transforming libraries, building communities*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.

Additional resources (readings, videos, websites, etc.) will be available electronically via GALILEO databases, on Odum Library course reserve, or through the course BlazeVIEW website

Please familiarize yourself with the VSU policy that prohibits the use of the Interlibrary Loan service for obtaining textbooks at https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/MLISPolicyonILLRequestsforTextbooks.pdf.

COURSE OBJECTIVES *(Show alignment to MLIS Program Objectives (PO) for all MLIS courses)*.
Collection Development Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
SLO 1. Define the concept and context of community.

SLO 2. Identify community issues and challenges in a specific setting.

SLO 3. Specify the contributions that libraries make in building their communities.

SLO 4. Enumerate ways in which libraries and librarians can engage in civic, cultural, creative, and social development.

SLO 5. Evaluate methods in which libraries can engage in and sustain community building.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course is divided into three modules. Students may move through the material at their own pace, but each module must be completed by a certain point in the semester and assignments will need to be completed by specific dates.

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

The following list is a brief overview of the assessments used to measure learning outcomes included in this course. Complete instructions for each assignment along with grading criteria will be posted on the BlazeVIEW course site in advance of that assignment's due date.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

Discussion Board Posts   (SLO 1)   25 points
Post to discussion board prompts/topics in each module. Each post worth 5 points.

Case Studies   (SLO 3)   20 points
To familiarize yourself with innovative community-building practices used by libraries, select two cases from the materials provided on the BlazeVIEW site - two that complement each other (one from a public library and one from an academic library. Report on these two libraries using the format outlined in the instructional document.

Librarians as a Community Champion   (SLO 4)   20 points
Select one award-winning librarian from the materials provided in the Assignments folder. Describe her/his priorities for building community (social, civic, cultural, creative); describe programs instituted by that champion that met with success.

Community Building Plan   (SLO 1, 2, 4, 5)   35 points
Develop a plan for a library based upon the principles of community building covered in this course. Devise and format your plan according to the full instructions provided.

COURSE GRADES

Students can earn a maximum of 100 points in this course. Course grades will be awarded as follows:
100-90 points = A   89-80 points = B   79-70 points = C   69- 60 points = D   Below 60 points = F

Standards for MLIS core courses: No grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree and students admitted in Fall 2016 or later must receive a grade of B or better in MLIS 7400 or MLIS 7440 to graduate. You must submit every assignment to be eligible to receive an A in this course.

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 or copied into a paper or project from a source without proper citing. 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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All course meetings and activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW, Valdosta State University's electronic course management system. Course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is the student's responsibility to follow the course calendar and participate via BlazeVIEW as indicated at the appropriate times. The instructor reserves the right to schedule real-time delivery of instruction using tools available inside BlazeVIEW. It is in the student's best interest to log into the BlazeVIEW course delivery system daily to check for announcements and e-mail messages related to the course.

COMMUNICATION

Please post course-related questions that may be relevant to the class on the Faculty Office discussion board. Communication from Dr. Colson will be conducted through BlazeVIEW email, postings and replies in the Faculty Office discussion board, and BlazeVIEW announcements. **Check these areas at least several times per week (daily is recommended) as you are responsible for knowing all information communicated through these channels.**

VSU requires that all correspondence between the student and the instructor be conducted through official university channels. To that end, all e-mail correspondence related to this course is to be sent using the email client built into BlazeVIEW. Non-course email should be sent to the instructor's regular VSU email address. Students should always use their own VSU email addresses for all VSU related communications. If you are having difficulty learning the subject matter or keeping up with the reading or assignments please contact me immediately. I can't help if I don't know there's a problem, and handling problems earlier rather than later is always better.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be submitted as instructed on the BlazeVIEW course website using Word formats (.doc or .docx suffixes only) or other formats designated by the instructor. The university's Information Technology (IT) department provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU's e-mail system and other resources. The IT Help Desk is at http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/helpdesk/. Their telephone hotline is 229-245-4357. BlazeVIEW is powered by the Desire2Learn (D2L) Brightspace course learning system. D2L provides 24/7 support 365 days a year. To contact D2L, go to https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu or call the hotline at 855-772-0423.

LATE WORK

Plan to submit all assignments by the deadlines designated on the Course Calendar. Assignments are generally due Sundays at 11:59PM EDT/EST with a one-day grace period. **Late submissions will not be accepted or graded.** However, there may be some flexibility in this rule—if you are having trouble completing an assignment, contact me **before** the due date so that we can discuss whatever issues you are experiencing. There is no grace period for Discussion Board posts. I will not grade or give credit for discussion activity completed after the due date/time.

Completely skipping an assignment is not acceptable in graduate school. To be eligible to receive an A in this course requires completing every assignment and submitting within the specified deadlines. All course work is due inside BlazeVIEW on the date and time indicated on the course calendar (based on the BlazeVIEW clock). Technology problems are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeVIEW is down at the time the work is due.

PROFESSIONALISM

The Department of Library and Information Studies expects that MLIS 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 student will be timely and complete with their assignments and other engagements. The student will communicate in a professional manner in both speech and writing. The student will maintain a professional attitude, being respectful to others and their viewpoints, and seek to maintain objectivity. The student will exercise an awareness of the pervasiveness of the online environment and strive to maintain a professional online presence.

DEWAR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php

TITLE IX STATEMENT

Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy status, sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: Maggie Viverette, Director of the

Office of Social Equity, titleix@valosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31608, 229-333-5463.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of the institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the age, sex, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent Executive Orders as well as Title IX, Equal Pay Act of 1963, Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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 OPINION OF INSTRUCTION

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available through SmartEvals. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the SOI Procedures webpage (https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/).