Department of Library and Information Studies

MLIS 7000, Foundations of LIS

Fall 2021

3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

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MLIS Website: http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/faculty.php

Course Description

An introduction to the library and information science field, its history and future directions. The focus is on the history, concepts, and technological development of the discipline. Students will gain familiarity with library and information theory, the discipline and sub-disciplines within the information sciences, and ethical practices and standards.

Textbooks / Resource Materials

1. Rubin, R. (2020). *Foundations of Library and Information Science (5th ed.)*. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers.

2. Hollister, C. (2014). *Handbook of Academic Writing for Librarians (revised edition)*. Chicago: American Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries. (http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=11209) **It is strongly urged that you obtain a copy of this book if you do not have extensive academic writing and publishing experience.**

3. *Concise Guide to APA Style, 7th ed.* (2020).

4. *Weekly readings* from the LIS professional and academic literature as indicated in each module. Articles will be available via GALILEO Scholar, the Odum Library's e- journals collection or on Odum Library course reserve, or links will be provided in the course website.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to meet these Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). The SLOs are aligned with MLS program objectives (https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/our-program/):

SLO 1. Discuss major topics, concepts, history, and issues of library and information science

SLO 2. Explore the functions, service perspective, and ethics of the LIS profession

SLO 3. Explain the role of technology in LIS practice

SLO 4. Describe the similarities and differences among types of libraries and information centers

SLO 5. Use LIS vocabulary appropriately

SLO 6. Analyze trends in LIS job announcements

SLO 7. Examine LIS literature

SLO 8. Discuss the role of library and information services in a diverse global society

SLO 9. Employ oral and written communication skills

This course covers the following American Library Association Core Competences of Librarianship (http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/careers/corecomp/corecompetences):

- **Foundations of the Profession**: 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.

Course Activities/Assignments/Requirements

There are a number of assessments developed to meet ALA MLIS Program Accreditation requirements for student learning outcomes. These assessments are part of all MLIS core courses. **LiveText is the online platform that has been selected for these assessments and all MLIS students are REQUIRED to purchase a license for LiveText system** (if you already own a license our domain can be added to your current license). The LiveText Student Membership Standard Edition offers you full access to LiveText for the entire time you are enrolled in a program (a maximum of 7 years). MLIS 7000 includes three assignments that partially fulfill the MLIS Program Objectives. You will find them marked as "**necessary to fulfill requirements for this course**" on page 5 of this syllabus. You must submit the final copies of these assignments to BOTH your LiveText account as well as via BlazeVIEW.

The following list is a brief overview of the assignments in this course. Complete instructions for each assignment, lab or discussion board, along with grading criteria, will be posted on the BlazeVIEW course site in advance of all due dates.

    Module Essays and Discussions – 30% of final grade (15 module essays and associated group discussion with your assigned small module discussion group, each counting as 2% of final grade)

- Successful completion of this assignment is **necessary to fulfill requirements for this course** and indicates partial accomplishment of MLIS Program-level student learning outcomes. You must create a document (template to be provided) that includes **all** 15 completed module essays and upload it to LiveText before we can give you a final grade for MLIS 7000.

Module Lab Assignments – 15% of final grade (15 lab assignments, each counting as 1% of final grade)
- Lab assignment included in each module.

Course Assignments – 55% of final grade (five course assignments, percent of final grade ranging from 5% to 15% depending on the assignment)

1. **Library Interview Report** – 10% of final grade
   - Interview a working librarian (**must** have an MLIS) ~~and tour the library where the librarian works~~ (element eliminated for SP 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions), then document your interview ~~and tour~~ (element eliminated for SP 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions) in a short essay. Cannot be a library where you currently or previously worked.

2. **Job Ad Analysis** – 15% of final grade
   - For the period of one month, monitor two of sources (list provided in assignment) of LIS job announcements and analyze your findings.

3. **LIS Journals Analysis** – 15% of final grade
   - Successful completion of this assignment is **necessary to fulfill requirements for this course** and indicates partial accomplishment of MLIS Program-level student learning outcomes. Your finished assignment must be uploaded as a BlazeVIEW assignment as well as to LiveText.

4. **Ethics and Standards Group Project** = 10% of final grade
   - Work in groups to explore the ethics of one particular professional group within the LIS professions. Write and submit a group paper. Successful completion of this assignment is **necessary to fulfill requirements for this course** and indicates partial accomplishment of MLIS Program-level student learning outcomes. Your finished assignment must be uploaded as a BlazeVIEW assignment as well as to LiveText.

5. **Electronic Portfolio Preparation** = 5% of final grade
   - Create a professional electronic portfolio that you will build throughout your time at VSU and submit as a requirement of MLIS 7800 at the end of your studies

Late Submissions, Missed Assignments, & Make Up Assignments

All course work is due via BlazeVIEW **no later than the date and time** indicated on the course calendar. There are no exceptions for Module Discussions or Labs and due to the pace of the course, no credit can be awarded for late submissions of Module Discussions or Labs. Any exceptions to the posted due date for assignments **must be negotiated in advance** and are limited to documented personal or immediate family health emergencies. Technological crises are not an acceptable excuse for submitting

work late unless BlazeVIEW is down at the time the work is due. There will be a reduction of 10% of the possible assignment grade deducted from the student's score for 24 hours or increment thereof through Wednesday (5 days after assignment due date).

If you need additional time to work on an assignment due to a documented personal or immediate family health emergency, or death you **must** contact your instructor BEFORE an assignment is due to discuss your situation. Assignments will not receive full credit if submitted after the assignment submission window closes without prior consent. Exceptions for late submission are limited to illness (with doctors note) or death in immediate family (include obituary).

LiveText Requirement
(Beta testing Anthology Portfolio, previously titled Chalk & Wire, in Fall 2021)

There are a number of assessments developed to meet ALA MLIS Program Accreditation requirements for measuring program performance in terms of student learning outcomes. These assessments are embedded in all MLIS core courses and the required collection development elective. LiveText is the online platform that has been selected to track these assessments and all MLIS students are REQUIRED to purchase a license for the LiveText system (if you already own a license our domain can be added to your current license). The LiveText Student Membership Standard Edition offers you full access to LiveText for the entire time you are enrolled in a program (a maximum of 7 years). If the beta test for Anthology Portfolio is not successful, you will be required to purchase a license for LiveText in late November or early December – information will be provided as soon as a decision is made.

This course includes three assignments that fulfill MLIS Program Objectives and are marked as "necessary to fulfill requirements for this course." You must submit the final copies of these] these assignments using the beta test directions for uploading of assignments to Anthology Portfolio.

Course Grades

Students can earn a maximum of 100% in this course. Assignment and course grades will be awarded as follows:
- A: 90 – 100 % - Excellent – exceeds all minimum expectations in work completed
- B: 80 – 89 % - Good – meets all and exceeds some minimum expectations
- C: 70 – 79 % - Satisfactory – meets some minimum expectations
- D: 60 – 69 % - Poor – meets few minimum expectations
- F: 59% and lower – Failing – did not meet expectations

(per VSU Graduate Student Academic Standards & Regulations http://catalog.valdosta.edu/graduate/academic-standards-regulations/)
*Please note, VSU only awards full letter grades, there are no options for plus or minus

Standards for MLIS core courses: All students admitted Fall 2012 and thereafter must earn a grade of "B" or better in **all** core courses: MLIS 7000, 7100, 7200, 7300, 7400/7440, 7700, and 7800, or repeat the course until a grade of "B" or higher is earned.
No grade below "C" will be credited toward a graduate degree.
(per VSU Graduate Student Academic Standards & Regulations http://catalog.valdosta.edu/graduate/academic-standards-regulations/)

To be eligible for an "A" in this course, a student must complete **every** assignment and all module essays.

No grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree and students must receive a grade of B or better to earn credit in core courses and the required collection development elective.

Attendance Policy

VSU requires that you attend class in the first week. Completion of the four modules in the MLIS Program Orientation is used to determine attendance. All course activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW. Course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is your responsibility to participate in all course activities and submit assignments on time. It is in your best interest to log into the course several times each week (daily is best) to check announcements, discussion board posts, and BlazeView emails.

Communication

Communication will be conducted through BlazeVIEW email, postings and replies in the discussion board, and/or BlazeVIEW announcements. Check these areas 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 email correspondence related to this course is to be sent using the email client built into the BlazeVIEW course website. For other correspondence with any VSU faculty members or administrative offices, please use your VSU email account.

Professionalism

The Department of Library and Information Studies expects you to pursue your academic endeavors and conduct yourself in a professional and ethical manner. All work submitted in the course must represent your own efforts. Cite sources and include reference information. You should communicate in a professional manner in both speech and writing and maintain a professional attitude, being respectful to others and their viewpoints. Exercise an awareness of the pervasiveness of the online environment and strive to maintain a professional online presence.

Academic Integrity

You are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct (https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/student-handbook.php) and the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism (https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php). All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics. Consequences for acts of academic dishonesty are detailed in the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism.

For more information, visit Academic Honesty at VSU (https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsu.php).

Student Opinion of Instruction Survey

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/).

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 sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, 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: Dr. Sherolyn Hopkins, titleix@valdosta.edu, Student Union, Suite 3106, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5941. To file a report (not make an inquiry) please visit https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ValdostaStateUniv&layout_id=7.

Accommodation Statement

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 Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office (https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/) or email access@valdosta.edu.

Helpful Links

Technical Support (IT helpdesk)	https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/
Center for eLearning (support for BlazeVIEW)	https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/
Academic Support Center	https://www.valdosta.edu/asc/
Hope Connect (Mental Health Services)	https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/hope-connect-about.php