**Department of Library and Information Studies**

**MLIS 7180**
**Library Services for Users With Disabilities**
**Fall 2022**
**Three Credit Hours**

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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Website: https://www.valdosta.edu/about/directory/profile/xren
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 8:00am – 1:00pm.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A general introduction to disability and library services to users with disabilities including accessibility, assistive technology, universal design, relevant policy, and funding opportunities. Students will also learn about disability and social justice in the LIS profession and typical issues and barriers that individuals with disabilities face in society.

Prerequisite or corequisite: MLIS 7000.

## TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS

**REQUIRED TEXT**
There is no required textbook for this class. Students will be given reading materialsthroughout the semester.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to meet these Student LearningOutcomes (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. Develop an understanding of the information needs and information use of patrons with disabilities (PO 1).
SLO 2. Identify and understand the main issues related to the provision of information services to patrons with disabilities. (PO1).
SLO 3. Describe barriers to information seeking, access, and use that may exist for

patrons with disabilities (PO 1).

SLO 4. Develop the ability to design and evaluate library or information service, collection and programs that facilitate information access and use for patrons with disabilities (PO 1).

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

1. Reference and User Services: The librarian understands and uses the concepts, principles, and techniques of reference and user services to provide access to relevantand accurate recorded knowledge and information to individuals of all ages and groups.

## COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

The following list is a brief overview of the assessments used to measure learning outcomesincluded 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.

**Graded Discussions** (SLO1, SLO2, and SLO3) – **15 Points**
> You are expected to make meaningful contribution to the Graded discussion topics based on course readings and interact with your classmates.

**Community Analysis Report** (SLO1) – **15 Points**
> Describe your selected community in terms of the populations with disability that we will be studying in this class.

**Library Scan Report** (SLO3) – **15 Points**
> Select an academic, public, school, or special library, information center, or museum serving your chosen community, and scan the relevant resources that are available/accessible for patrons with disabilities (collections, booklists/pathfinders, programming calendar, handouts, bulletin boards, websites, signage, displays, and library policy etc.).

**Needs Assessment Report** (SLO1 and SLO5) – **15 Points**
> Describe the information needs of the population with disability (what access and information do they need?)

**Grant Proposal (**SLO 4) – **20 Points**
> Research and select a small library grant. Obtain the necessary forms for the grant and complete them along with a grant proposal.

**Reflective Paper (**SLO2 and SLO4)– **20 Points**
> The final paper is your opportunity to cogently and in a structured manner to reflect upon what you learned this semester and present this information in a well-reasoned document.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS
All written work must be submitted as attachments to the assignment modules in the BlazeVIEW course website using required formats. The university's

Information Technologydepartment provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU's e-mail system and other resources. The IT Help Desk is at https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/.Their telephone hotline is 229-245-4357.

**LATE SUBMISSIONS, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, & MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS**
All course work is due inside BlazeVIEW on the date and time indicated on the course calendar. Any exceptions must be negotiated in advance. Technological crises are not anacceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeVIEW is down.

Without prior arrangement with the instructor, late submissions more than 5 days late will receive a zero score. If you inform me of extenuating circumstances **before** the deadline, we can work out a solution for submitting a late assignment without penalty. Completely skipping an assignment is not acceptable in graduate school. To receive an A in this course requires completing **every** assignment.

If you have not submitted assignments up to the Midterm (**October 6**) in the semester, you are not eligible for an Incomplete at the end of the semester. A grade of Incomplete is also notan option unless a non-academic situation interferes with completion of assignments **after** the option to withdraw without academic penalty passed. You must request withdrawal through the office of the VSU Registrar.

## COURSE GRADES
Course grades will be awarded as follows:

A: 90%–100%
B: 80%–89%
C: 70%–79%
D: 60%–69%
F: Lower than 60%

No grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree and students must receive agrade 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. All course activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW [and/or other platform(s) as designated by the instructor]. Course contentis 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 at least several times each week (daily is best) to check announcements, discussion board posts, and emails.

## COMMUNICATION

Communication will be conducted through **BlazeVIEW email**, **postings** and **replies** in thediscussion board, and/or **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 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 VSUemail account.

A **<u>Got Questions?</u>** discussion board will be available for the duration of the semester. Please post course-related questions that may be relevant to your classmates on the discussion board. You are expected to subscribe to and read this discussion board regularly. If you contact me viae-mail, I will get back to you within 48 hours or sooner. If you would like to speak with me overthe phone or using the Collaborate Ultra classroom, please schedule an appointment with me via email.

## 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 ofthe 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 standardof 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 leastone 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 acourse 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/).

### NON-DISCRIMINATION AND TITLE IX STATEMENT

Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Mr. Darius Thomas. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/

### ACCOMMODATIONS STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Christina Kidd, Student Conduct Coordinator at chkidd@valdosta.edu.  Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

### Helpful Links

| Technical Support (IT helpdesk) | https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/ |
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| 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 |