

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

**MLIS 7220 Public Libraries**

**Three Credit Hours**

**Abigail Phillips**

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**(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/f>**

**iles/content/careers/corecomp/corecompetences/finalcorecompstat09.pdf)**

1. 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.
2. Information Resources: 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. Organization of Recorded Knowledge and Information: The librarian understands and uses the principles involved in the organization, representation, and classification of recorded knowledge and information.
4. Technological Knowledge and Skills: The librarian understands and uses information, communication, assistive, and related technologies consistent with professional ethics and prevailing service norms and applications.
5. Reference and User Services: 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. Research: 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. Professionalism. 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. Administration and Management: 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**

Name: Abigail Leigh Phillips, Postdoctoral Fellow, Instructional Technologies and Learning Sciences, Utah State University

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the American public library and its place in contemporary Communities; Topics include standards, planning, evaluation, governance, funding, and advocacy. ***Prerequisite or co-requisite: MLIS 7200 or consent of the instructor.***

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS**

McCook, Kathleen de la Pena. (2011). *Introduction to Public Librarianship, 2nd edition*. NY: Neal-Schuman. ISBN 978-1-55570-697-5 (paper).

*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* [APA Style Manual], 6th ed. (2009). If you have the first printing of the 6th edition, be sure to get the corrections from the APA website.

Basics of APA style are available at the Purdue University Online Writing Lab [OWL] website: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> and at <http://www.apastyle.org> but students will be held to the standards given in the actual APA Style Manual.

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/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/MLISPolicyonILLRequestsforTextbooks.pdf>

Weekly readings from the professional and research literature as indicated in the detailed reading list.

Articles will be available via GALILEO Scholar, the Odum Library's e-journals collection, on Odum Library e-reserve, or links will be provided in the course website.

Subscribe to American Libraries Direct listserv: (AL Direct). An

electronic newsletter sent by e-mail every Wednesday to ALA members. *AL Direct* calls attention to new items on the ALA website, as well as practical, informative, and entertaining library-related news and tidbits found elsewhere online. You can also check it out here:

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/al-direct/>

**COURSE OBJECTIVES (with *alignment to MLIS Program Objectives*)** Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

SLO 1. Recognize the history of public libraries in the U.S. (*ALA Core Competence 1, MLIS PO1*) SLO 2. Analyze the role of public libraries in contemporary U.S. society. (*ALA Core Competence 1,2 MLIS PO1*).

SLO 3. Describe governance of U.S. public libraries including their missions, goals, and functions (*ALA Core Competence 1, MLIS PO1*).

SLO 4. Analyze and discuss the development, marketing, delivery and management of public library services and programs (*ALA Core Competence 1,8, MLIS PO1,4*).

SLO 5. Identify and describe user and community characteristics and priorities and their effects on public library systems and services (*ALA Core Competence 5,7, MLIS PO1*).

SLO 6. Analyze and discuss methods of evaluating public library systems, services, and programs (*ALA Core Competence 2,4,8 MLIS PO2*).

SLO 7. Analyze and discuss the uses and impacts of digital information technology in public libraries

(*ALA Core Competence 4; MLIS PO2*).

## **COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS**

### **Summary of Graded Course Activities:**

The course calendar provides a summary of all course readings and

activities for the semester. Details for each unit are posted in the appropriate folder on the course website. ***It is the student's responsibility to check the course calendar for DUE DATES for all class work, and the unit folders for all required and supplemental readings and other materials.*** Summary descriptions of all required course work are provided below. Full details can be found in the assignments section of the course website.

**Weekly Discussion Board Postings Total Points Possible: 20 (SLO 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)**

Week 1: Required - Please introduce yourself on the Introductions DB by Monday of unit 2. Weeks 2 – 16: For full credit for the Discussion activity you must post twice to the 10 unit discussion topics during the week the topic is active as described in the assignments section of the course website.

**Two Public Library Reports Total Points Possible: 45 (SLO 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)**

Summary: Identify a public library near your home or workplace. If you already work in a public library, you may use your workplace library and library system for this assignment. You may (and should) use this library as a resource for completing most of the assignments in this course and as a resource for your responses to the weekly discussion board topics when appropriate. There are two reports required which will be submitted individually by the dates indicated on the course calendar. Complete instructions are provided in the assignments section of the course website.

***Report 1 – Library profile and challenges: 30 points Report 2 – Library Services and Programming: 15 points***

**Literature Review 20 points (SLO 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)**

Public libraries are rapidly changing institutions and public librarianship is a rapidly changing field of practice. Identify a relevant topic of

interest or concern to you and explore it in a 2500-3000 word paper.

This is not an opinion paper; please explore the professional and research literature on your topic and present different perspectives if you find them. This paper should be double spaced and must follow APA publication guidelines. You should include a reference list and cite your sources in your paper according to APA style. Complete instructions are provided in the assignments section of the course website.

### **Final Vision Essay 15 points (SLO 6)**

After studying this semester about various public library topics, this is your chance to define what you want your public library to be. Complete instructions are provided in the assignments section of the course website.

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

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

**NO grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree. *To be eligible to receive an A in the course a student must complete every 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 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.

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

## **Course Evaluation**

Students in this course are expected to: 1) Read or view all assigned materials; 2) Participate in class activities; 3) Submit all projects on time and according to the format designated by the instructor; 4) Conduct all research and composition according to the VSU Academic Honesty Policy. See the COEHS *Policy on Plagiarism* on page 6 and the *MLIS Guide to Ethical Conduct* at

<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/GuidetoEthicalConductWebversion.pdf>).

## **Communication**

A course Faculty Office 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 read the Faculty Office discussion board regularly. If you have a personal question, please send it to the instructor via [abigail.leighphillips@gmail.com](mailto:abigail.leighphillips@gmail.com). If you would like to speak with the instructor in person or by telephone, please contact us during office hours.

## **Submitting written assignments**

All written work must be submitted as attachments to the assignment modules in the BlazeView course website using Word formats (.doc or .docx suffixes only). All written work file names should begin with your last name and first initial and include the assignment name as the file name, for example: DrouillardC\_tour.docx The university's Information Technology 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://ww2.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/index.shtml> Their telephone hotline is 229-245-4357.



## **Late Policy**

All course work is due inside BlazeView on the date and time indicated on the course calendar. Any exceptions without penalties must be negotiated in advance. Technological crises are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeView is down at the time the work is due.

A grace period of 24 hours is offered without penalty on assignments (this does not include discussion boards – due to the interactive nature of these, each module’s discussion posts must be completed according to the course schedule). After 24 hours 20% of the possible assignment grade will be deducted from the student’s score for every additional 24 hours or increment thereof that the work is late up until the day the BlazeView assignment submission window closes (noon on Friday unless otherwise identified). If you need additional time to work on an assignment or if you have a scheduling conflict you must contact your instructor BEFORE the assignment is due to discuss your situation. The instructor WILL NOT accept work after the assignment submission window closes without prior consent.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is the student’s responsibility to follow the course calendar and participate via the class website as indicated at the appropriate times. It is in the student’s best interest to log into the D2L Brightspace course delivery system daily to check for announcements and e-mail messages related to the course.

## **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 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>

## **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](mailto: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 on BANNER. 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, and instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses two weeks after they have submitted final grades. Instructors will not be able to view individual responses or to access any of the responses until after final grade submission. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/OnlineSOIPilotProject.shtml>.