

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

**MLIS 7700
Research Methods
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. 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

Nicole D. Alemagne, Ph. D.
Odum Library Room 4600
Phone: 229-245-3742
E-mail: ndalemanne@valdosta.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday–Thursday: 9AM-1PM
Website: <http://nicolealemanne.com>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: MLIS 7000. An introduction to the various approaches to social science research and research methods. Students will perform small scale research projects and develop skills in the research uses of libraries and the needs of library patrons.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS

Neuman, W. L. (2012) *Basics of social research: Qualitative and quantitative approaches* (3rd ed.). Boston: Pearson. ISBN-10: 0205762611. ISBN-13: 9780205762613.

Hollister, C. V. (2013). *Handbook of academic writing for librarians*. Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL, a division of ALA). ISBN-10: 083898648X. ISBN- 13: 978-0838986486.

Nahl, D. (2000). *Strategic research approaches for reference librarians*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall-Hunt. (This is a workbook – currently out-of-print. We have permission from the author to copy the content, so chapters are available in PDF format on the BlazeVIEW site for this course.)

Bhattacharjee, A. (2012). *Social science research: Principles, methods, and practice* (2nd ed.). Published under the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](#) (An ebook available 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/academics/library/general/about/faqs/ill/ill-services.php> (see the section What Kind of Materials Can I Request Through Interlibrary Loan).

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 meet these Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

SLO 1. Recognize the inter-relationships of theory, research, and scientific inquiry (PO3).

SLO 2. Discuss basic ethical issues associated with conducting research (PO3, PO4).

SLO 3. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative research methods (PO3).

SLO 4. Identify the basic elements in the design of social research studies (PO3).

SLO 5. Relate terminology, concepts, and processes of social research to studies conducted in the library and information science (LIS) field (PO3).

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

MLIS 7700 includes an assignment called Writing a Research Project Proposal that fulfills the Program Objective 3. You will find it marked as “necessary to fulfill requirements for this course” on page 5 of this syllabus. You will need a subscription to LiveText and must submit the final copy of the Research Proposal to your LiveText account.

There are a number of assessments developed to meet ALA accreditation requirements on student learning outcomes. These assessments are part of all the MLIS core courses plus certain electives. LiveText is the software that the MLIS Program selected for keeping track of these assessments, and all MLIS students are REQUIRED to purchase access to the LiveText system. The LiveText subscription is not tied to when you entered the program or to when you plan to graduate. Once you purchase your subscription to LiveText, it is good for up to five years. You will also have personal access to other LiveText features you may find useful once you have your subscription. Please consider the purchase of your LiveText subscription as you would the purchase of any other textbook or piece of software required for a course.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

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

CITI Human Research Ethics Training (7 points)

You are required to complete an online tutorial on human subjects and institutional review board procedures. Submit the certificate of completion to the CITI Certificate Assignment folder. [SLOs 2, 5]

Individual Exercise A: Elements of Research Design (10 points)

You will identify various data collection methods looking for good qualities and flaws. [SLOs 4, 5]

Individual Exercise B: Data Collection and Surveys (10 points)

An exercise that involves identifying the basic components of quantitative research design using excerpts from actual research articles from the library and information science literature. [SLOs 3, 5]

Individual Exercise C: Nature of Qualitative Research (10 points)

An exercise that involves identifying the basic components of qualitative research design using an example from the library and information science literature. [SLOs 4, 5]

Small Group Exercise: Read-Observe-Analyze Project (15 points)

You will work in groups of three to investigate a construct currently of interest in the field of library and information science. To conduct your examination, you will use the tools of qualitative research (e.g., observations and a scan of the literature) to look for indicators that this construct is influencing library practice. Together, you will assemble a short collaborative paper that reports your findings. An explanation of the construct and details on formatting the report and grading criteria will be available through the BlazeVIEW course site. [SLOs 4, 5]

Research Proposal Drafts (15 points)

Select a research problem related to the field of library and information science and draft a research proposal specifying what you would do if you had the opportunity to conduct research on your problem (you do not conduct the research for this class). You will build the proposal in stages and will receive feedback on each draft:

- Research Proposal Worksheet (5 points): A worksheet in which you develop the parts of your proposal idea;
- Draft Literature Review & References (5 points): A working draft of your literature review;
- Research Methods Worksheet (5 points): A worksheet in which you will state your research problem- questions, your research design, and your method(s); and
- Proposal Draft (not required, no points): You will have an opportunity to submit a draft of your proposal for review.

Final Project: Writing a Research Project Proposal (20 points)

Using your preliminary drafts and the feedback on this work, refine and combine your work into a research proposal that articulates how to investigate the research problem you selected. The final proposal must include: abstract; literature review; problem statement and research question(s); explanation of the purpose of the research; objectives or hypothesis; type of research approach proposed (e.g., qualitative or quantitative design with details); research design particulars (e.g., procedures on selecting materials or participants, names of variables, and data collection and analysis methods); and potential application(s) or implication(s) of the proposed research. Details on formatting the report and

grading criteria will be available through the BlazeVIEW course site. **Successful completion of this project is necessary to fulfill requirements for this course.** [SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Weekly Discussions (13 points)

Participate in 13 weekly discussion activities. Respond to discussion prompts and read and reply to fellow students' posts.

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: **Must earn a grade of B or higher in this course or repeat it.**

To be eligible to receive an A in this 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

As a student in this class, you are expected to: (1) read or view all assigned background materials; (2) participate in weekly discussion activities; (3) visit a library several times to examine its collection and policy on collection development; (4) submit all projects on time and according to the format designated by the instructor; and (5) conduct your research and composition according to the rules of academic integrity. 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>.

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. Participation in discussions and reading material on the course website are considered part of required attendance.

COMMUNICATION

Please post course-related questions that may be relevant to the class on the Ask and Answer discussion board. Communication from Dr. Alemagne will be conducted through BlazeView email, postings and

replies in the Ask and Answer 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 through the Ask and Answer discussion board or through BlazeView email. I can't help if I don't know there's a problem, and handling problems earlier rather than later is always better.

SUBMITTING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

All written work 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) 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

All course work is due inside BlazeView on the date and time indicated on the course calendar (based on the BlazeView clock). Late assignments will be accepted for three days after the due date, with a 10% deduction in the earned grade per day. Any exceptions to this policy must be negotiated in advance of the due date. Technological crises are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeView is down at the time the work is due. This course does not have grace periods for assignments, but assignments are generally due on the Monday, a day after the end of the topic.

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 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>.