

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

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**MLIS 7220  
Public Libraries  
Three Credit Hours**

## **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.***

## **INSTRUCTOR**

Name: Linda R. Most, Ph.D.

Telephone Number: 229-245-6534

Email Address: lrmost@valdosta.edu

Office Hours: Phone or Chat by appointment

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS**

McCook, Kathleen de la Pena & Bossaller, Jenny S. (2018) *Introduction to Public Librarianship (3rd ed.)* Chicago: Neal-Schuman.

ISBN: 978-0-8389-1506-6 (pb). e-Pub (978-0-83891664-3) Kindle (978-0-8389-1666-7)

Relevant professional and scholarly journal articles will be assigned to accompany each textbook chapter and in weeks when no chapter is assigned. The reading list is provided on the course website.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES (aligned to the ALA 2009 Core Competences and 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: 30 (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Week 1: Required - Please post your Introduction by midnight on Sunday of Week 1

Weeks 2-15: Six (6) Interactive topics; 5 points each; full details in the *Assignments* document.

### Two Public Library Reports Total Points Possible: 40 (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: 20 points***

***Report 2 – Library Services and Programming: 20 points***

### Literature Review 20 points (SLOs 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 relate your findings in a 5-7 page paper.

***This is not an opinion paper;*** you will explore the professional and research literature on your topic and present the perspectives as you find them. This paper should be double-spaced and must follow APA in-text format. Complete instructions are provided in the *Assignments* section of the course website.

### Final Vision Essay 10 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.

### 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: SuddethJ\_litreview.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 Solutions Center is found at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/service-desk/> The telephone hotline is 229-245-4357.

## 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* <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php> and the *MLIS Guide to Ethical Conduct* at <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/GuidetoEthicalConductWebversion.pdf>).

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

### 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.

***There is no grace period for any assignment.*** 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. If you need additional time 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.

## 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]*

## **General MLIS Program and University Expectations**

### **COMMUNICATION**

Communication will be conducted through BlazeVIEW email, postings and replies in the discussion 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 VSU email account.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

VSU requires that you attend class in the first week. [Insert first week attendance requirement for this course.] All course activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW [and/or other platform(s) as designated by the instructor]. 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 at least several times each week (daily is best) to check announcements, discussion board posts, and emails.

### **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 for 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 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-policies-and-procedures.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](mailto:titleix@valdosta.edu), Student Union, Suite 3106, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5941. For more information, please go to <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/human-resources/employee-matters/sexual-misconduct-title-ix/> To file a report (not make an inquiry) please visit [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ValdostaStateUniv&layout\\_id=7](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](mailto:access@valdosta.edu)

## Helpful Links

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