Overview

Official Course Description: An introduction to the nature of information (both utilitarian and aesthetic) in contemporary society, and to the role played by libraries and other information organizations in disseminating that information. Emphasis is on developing perspective.

Course goals: LIS 600 addresses the “Foundations of the profession” core competency area, as approved by the ALA. The course provides the following content: the history of human communication and its impact on libraries; the history of libraries and librarianship; types of libraries and related agencies; the importance of advocacy for libraries, librarians and their services; the ethics, values and foundational principles of the profession; the role of LIS professionals in promoting democratic principles and intellectual freedom; the legal framework within which libraries operate (e.g., laws respecting copyright, intellectual property, privacy, equal rights, and certification/licensure); and social, economic and cultural trends and policies of significance to the profession.

Contact Information: I am most accessible through email: shannon.oltmann@uky.edu. As a general rule, I will respond to course-related email correspondence within 24 hours. Please include the course number in brackets [600] in the subject line for all messages. I am happy to meet face to face or via technology with students, but you should set up the appointment in advance via email.

Please note that class communication is done via your official UK email address. You must check this frequently.

Schedule: Course weeks start on Monday and end on Sunday (except for Week One, which runs Wednesday through Sunday). The definitive schedule is on Blackboard Course Documents; this printed syllabus does not reflect all web materials or changes made after the course starts.

Assignments & Grading

Assignments. All assignments are due by midnight (Eastern time) on Sunday, unless otherwise noted. Assignments may be turned in early (though no extra credit is received for this). I will return graded assignments to you in a timely fashion. More details about each assignment can be found in the Assignments folder in the Blackboard environment. Detailed information will become available as the assignment due date nears.

Participation: In this course, participation is measured by your contributions to the Blackboard discussions each week. Each classmember must contribute regularly (i.e., at least 4 postings) to each set of Discussion Board questions—the equivalent of a "B" grade for "participation." Less participation will lower the grade; frequent, informed participation will raise it. In addition, consistently thoughtful contributions that advance discussion will receive more credit. Participation is worth 20% of your final grade.

Reading reports: You will read, summarize, and analyze a non-class reading. The total report should be 600-800 words. A list of recommended journals to browse and topics for each reading report is available on Blackboard. There are three separate reading reports due. Reading reports are due on 9/23, 10/21, and 11/8. Each report is worth 15% of your final grade.

Quizzes: There are three quizzes throughout the semester which test your reading comprehension and retention. In addition, the quizzes can serve as an indicator to you of whether you will have difficulty completing assignments on time. The quizzes are brief and are scheduled as indicated in the syllabus below. They will be available to take and submit via Blackboard. Quizzes are due on 9/16, 10/07, and 11/04. Each quiz is worth 10% of your final grade.
Final paper: You will complete a 10-12 page paper on a topic of your choosing; most papers have focused on a development, trend, or controversial issue in library and information science. Although you can use some class readings in your paper, you must also find non-class readings. You will need to submit your topic for approval by week 11. You will also post a short description of your paper to Blackboard, to share with your classmates, after you turn in the final paper. More details about the paper and the various components will be available in Blackboard. The final paper is due on 12/07. It is worth 25% of your final grade.

Grading. The grade is decided according to the following percentages:

- Participation in class: 20%
- Reading reports (3): 30% (10% for each)
- Quizzes (3): 30% (10% for each)
- Final paper: 25%

Grades are based on a percentage scale. There are 100 points available. Grading will not be done on a curve, but on a strict points basis. You can check your grade at any time or email me with any questions regarding grading. **Late assignments will lose 10% for each day they are late.** For example, if a paper is worth 25 points, and it is one day late, you will lose 2.5 points. Exceptions will be granted rarely—in advance and in writing. If you are going to turn in a late assignment, contact me as soon as possible to discuss the situation. At the end of the course, I will convert the points earned into a percentage:

- 90% and above = A
- 80% to 90% = B
- 70% to 80% = C
- below 70% = E

I assign the grade of I (incomplete) only when I am convinced the student’s circumstances warrant it.

**Reading.** Completing the required reading each week is essential to doing well in the class. Many readings can be found in our textbook: **Rubin, R. (2010). Foundations of Library and Information Science. 3rd ed. New York: Neal-Schuman.** The other readings will be made available to you via Blackboard. Other material may also be required, such as PowerPoint slides, news articles, or videos. It is your responsibility to read/view this material as well. If you encounter a broken link or trouble accessing something, contact me.

**Important Class Policies**

**Academic integrity:** According to Senate Regulation 6.3.1: “All academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.” For specific information regarding the University's code and regulations on plagiarism and cheating, visit:

- [http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/)
- [http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html)

**Academic accommodations due to disability:** If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

**Attendance, etc.:** Regular attendance (as documented by participation in Blackboard discussions) is essential to doing well in the class—and is also important to build a community and to help your classmates succeed. Unexcused absences will have a detrimental effect on your grade. Acceptable reasons for an excused absence from course activities include serious illness or bereavement. If in doubt, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your situation. It is UK policy to grant incompletes (I grade) only for such reasons; see the UK Student Code for details ([www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/)).
Integration of Syllabus with UK Educator Preparation Unit Themes: This course will address the four themes of the conceptual framework for the UK professional education unit: research, reflection, learning, and leading. Students will be given the opportunity to review, analyze, discuss, and apply research from diverse perspectives in education and information seeking environments. Reflection will also be integrated into students’ learning opportunities through the production of written work. This course emphasizes the commitment of the professional education unit to assure that its graduates move into their professional lives equipped for life-long learning as educators who will be active in leading colleagues in their schools and/or professional organizations. The ultimate goal in addressing these four themes is to produce leaders who work together to improve service and learning among diverse populations and improve education in Kentucky and beyond.

Integration of the Syllabus with the Themes of Diversity, Assessment, and Technology: All UK professional education programs address and affirm the value of diversity in education, the use of technology to support all aspects of instructional programming, and the importance of attaining high levels of skill in assessing the outcomes of instruction. This course provides students an opportunity to demonstrate attention to these themes and reflect on the mechanisms that this course has provided to demonstrate improved skills in these areas.

WEEK 1 (8/22-9/2): Introduction to course
- Required Reading: None
- Tasks:
  - Buy textbook
  - Login to Blackboard and introduce yourself
  - Begin reading and plan your semester

WEEK 2 (9/3-9/9): History of libraries & information technology
- Required Reading:
- Tasks:
  - Begin class discussion by participating in discussion boards (see guidelines and additional information on Blackboard)

WEEK 3 (9/10-9/16): The sociology of professions & the profession of librarianship
- Required Reading:
Tasks:
- Blackboard discussion
- Quiz #1 due by midnight, 9/16

- Required Reading:

Tasks:
- Blackboard discussion
- Reading Summary #1 due by midnight, 9/23

WEEK 5 (9/24-9/30): The Information Society & implications for libraries
- Required Reading:

Tasks:
- Blackboard discussion

WEEK 6 (10/1-10/7): Information seeking
- Required Reading:

Tasks:
- Blackboard discussion
- Quiz #2 due by midnight, 10/07

WEEK 7 (10/8-10/14): Libraries by type/organization: Public & school libraries
- Required Reading:


- **Tasks:**
  - Blackboard discussion

**WEEK 8 (10/15-10/21): Libraries by type/organization: Academic & special libraries**
- **Required Reading:**

- **Tasks:**
  - Blackboard discussion
  - Reading Summary #2 due by midnight, 10/21

**WEEK 9 (10/22-10/28): Issues: Diversity in the community**
- **Required Reading:**

- **Tasks**
  - Blackboard discussion

**WEEK 10 (10/29-11/04): Issues: Intellectual freedom & censorship**
- **Required Reading:**
See also the top 10 challenged books of 2011. Available at:
http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/21stcenturychallenged#2011

- Rubin, R. (2010). Chapter 9: Information policy as library policy (pp. 371-404). In Foundations of
Available at: http://www.ala.org/ala/offices/oif/basics/notcensorship.cfm
(Eds.), The handbook of information and computer ethics (pp. 573-587). Hoboken, NJ: John
Wiley & Sons.
Libraries, 35(11), 42-44.

Tasks:
- Blackboard discussion
- Quiz #3 by midnight, 11/04

WEEK 11 (11/05-11/11): Issues: Copyright & open access

- Required Reading:
  - Copyright law of the United States. (1976; 1998). U.S. Copyright Office. Available at:
  - Henderson, Carol. (n.d.) Libraries as creatures of copyright: Why librarians care about intellectual
property law and policy. Available at:
http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/copyright/copyrightarticle/librariescreatures.cfm
  - Herb, U. (2010). Sociological implications of scientific publishing: Open access, science, society,
democracy, and the digital divide. First Monday, 15(2-1). Available at:

Tasks:
- Blackboard discussion
- One-page description of term paper topic, with at least two references, due by midnight, 11/11

WEEK 12 (11/12-11/18): Issues: Privacy

- Required Reading:
  - Johnson, M. (2010). Chapter 5: Big brother and the holding company (pp. 67-86 In This book is
431-453.
  - Wyatt, A.M. (2006). Do librarians have an ethical duty to monitor patrons' internet usage in the
of patron confidentiality policies in public and academic libraries. Library & Information Science
Research, 29, 455-470.
sites. Community & Junior College Libraries, 16(2), 100-113.

Tasks:
- Blackboard discussion
- Reading summary #3 due by midnight, 11/18

WEEK 13 (11/19-11/20): Image & status of the information professions, part one

- Required Reading:
  - Dupre, Deirdre. The perception of image and status in the library profession. [The following URL
takes you to a page on the U. of Oregon website.
  - Engle, Michael. Remythologizing Work: The role of archetypal images in the humanization of
librarianship. Available at:
http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/bitstream/1813/3902/1/archetype.html

Tasks:
- Blackboard discussion

NOTE: November 21-24 are officially Thanksgiving academic holidays.

WEEK 14 (11/26-12/2): Image & status of the information professions, part two

Required Reading:

Tasks:
- Blackboard discussion
- View one of the following films and then discuss on Blackboard; you can access them via a library, Netflix, video rental store, or other location.
  - Desk Set
  - Foul Play
  - Goodbye Columbus
  - The Music Man (1962 or 2003)
  - Gun in Betty Lou’s Handbag
  - Party Girl
  - Where the Heart Is (2000)
  - The Name of the Rose
  - The Librarian: The Quest for the Spear
  - The Time Traveler’s Wife
  - Storm Center

WEEK 15 (12/3-12/9): Wrap-up

Required Reading: None

Tasks:
- Post a short description of your final paper to the Discussion board (see Assignments for more information and expectations)
- Final paper due by midnight on 12/7. Note: This is a Friday, not the usual due date of Sunday
- Answer end-of-semester questions on Blackboard (anonymously if you prefer)