University of Kentucky
School of Library & Information Science (SLIS)

LIS623: Information in the Humanities
Fall 2009
August 26 – December 18

Instructor
Rebecca L. Miller, MLS, Ph.D.
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Office Hours
• By appointment only
• Arrange appointment by e-mail
• Response time: generally 24 hours M-F

E-mail is the preferred method for contact

Class Information
• Online via Blackboard
• Face-to-face meetings:
  o September 19, 3:00-5:00 (Room 301)
  o December 12, 3:00-5:30 (Room 303)
• Final exam: December 12 meeting

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description
The SLIS Bulletin describes this course as addressing:

The content and structure of bibliographic and other information resources in the humanities. A consideration of formal and informal communication within the humanities with emphasis on information sources and services in religion, philosophy, literature, linguistics, visual arts, music, dance, theatre, film and other closely related subjects.

This course supports the four themes of the conceptual framework for the UK professional education unit: research, reflection, learning, and leading. The ultimate goal is to produce leaders who work together to improve service and learning among diverse populations in Kentucky and beyond.

Pre-Requisite Course Requirements
LIS601 – Information Seeking, Resources and Services
(or permission of instructor)
Course Objectives
Upon completing the course, you will be able to:
1. Demonstrate a base knowledge of humanities fields and the vocabulary to analyze reference questions.
2. Explain the natures of humanities sources and their use by scholars, students, and the lay public in humanities fields, and their relationship to other fields.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the contents of primary and secondary reference resources in the humanities, including print, online databases, and websites.
4. Demonstrate the ability to compare, contrast, and evaluate various reference sources.

Course Overview
The “humanities” encompass a collection of disciplines that have been differentiated from social and physical sciences through a specific style of inquiry and thought. This class will provide an overview of the primary disciplines considered to be in the humanities – language and literature, philosophy, fine arts, religion, etc. A prior familiarity with reference sources in general is expected from the pre-requisite LIS601 course; this course will delve into sources specifically for use in the humanities. Also, prior familiarity with search strategies is expected.

Course Outline
Week 1: Welcome to class
Week 2: Introduction to the humanities
Week 3: Information literacy and the humanities
Week 4: Scholarly communication in the humanities
Week 5: Philosophy
Week 6: con’t
Week 7: Religion
Week 8: con’t
Week 9: Visual Arts
Week 10: con’t
Week 11: Performing Arts
Week 12: con’t
Week 13: Language and Literature
Week 14: con’t
Week 15: Wrap-up

Required Reading

There will also be several required readings assigned throughout the semester that will augment the required text. You are responsible for obtaining these readings; most of which are available through UK Library’s electronic databases (particularly Library Literature and Information Science Full Text). The complete list is at the end of the syllabus.
STUDENT EVALUATION

Grading Parameters
Full detailed instructions will be provided when the assignment is given.

- Participation and discussion exercises 15%
  To account for your participation you will be required to respond to discussion questions posted on the Discussion Board each week. You will be assigned to a small group for these questions. You are required to post your response to the question and at least one response to a classmate for each question. Detailed information is in the “participation” instruction sheet.

- Reference questions 30%
  Each set of practical exercises will consist of hypothetical reference questions that you will answer through the use of the resources discussed in the textbook.

- Annotated bibliography 30%
  You will create an annotated bibliography consisting of resources from each of the disciplines discussed in class. This bibliography will be designed for a library type (academic, school, or public) and audience age (children, young adult, adult, undergraduate, graduate, faculty) of your choice.

- Final exam 25%
  The final exam will determine your overall knowledge of the topics covered in this class. The final is comprehensive, closed book and in-class (the last class meeting). The final will have two parts: questions based on the readings, and questions based on the practical exercises. Comprehension questions over the readings will be posted weekly; you are not required to submit your answers to these questions, but are encouraged to use them for review.
Grading Rubric (See Submission of Course Assignments for details.)

- Submissions are due by 11:59 pm of the day stated. Late submissions of work will be docked 10 percent for every day that an assignment is late, INCLUDING weekends. Late submissions will be accepted up to 3 days post-date.
- I operate in a Windows environment. I will only accept submitted assignments in Rich Text Format or Microsoft Word versions 2003 or 2007.
- All assignments are to be submitted through the corresponding Assignment Dropbox – every assignment will have a corresponding “dropbox” to which you upload your completed assignment. Then, I download your assignment, grade it, and upload the graded copy to the same dropbox and you can then download the graded copy. I will only accept submissions by e-mail IF you have pre-approval from me.

Grading Scale

90% – 100% = A (Exceptional Achievement)
80% – 89% = B (High Achievement)
70% – 79% = C (Average Achievement)
0% – 69% = E (Failing)

Participation

This is a graduate class that is delivered online. I expect and demand the same level of involvement with the material as a face-to-face class. In fact, I demand probably more, because you do not have lectures but must read more. This is the trade-off for a class available at a distance. Typical graduate level coursework demands 4 hours of work for every 1 credit hour. Thus, as a 3 hour course, you can count on devoting at least 12 hours per week to this class.

This online class is not a “go-at-your-own-pace” class. I expect you to follow the schedule of readings, assignments and discussions online so as to approximate as best as possible a face-to-face course. The beauty of an asynchronous online course is the possibility for everyone to participate when they can (within certain limitations, of course). The downside is also this factor – it is difficult to manage active discussions over a long time frame.

The Discussion Board is the online equivalent of the interactions we would have face-to-face in a traditional class. The majority of your participation grade is from your postings on the forums in response to discussion questions I will post. To respond to my or anyone else’s postings, just hit reply from the post and your response will be threaded. I will post questions for discussion on Fridays and you are to reply to all of them no later than Thursday. On Friday and into the following week, you and I will read and respond to the posted replies. Get into the habit of checking the Discussion Board every day, to respond to those who have already posted.

Absences/Attendance

Attendance in this online class will be measured by contributions to your small group discussion that are fairly frequent and – most importantly – substantive and original in their content. Online classes offer the equal opportunity to everyone to contribute. See the assignment sheet concerning participation for more details concerning grading of attendance.

You will be considered absent if you do not attend a face-to-face meeting or if you do not post at all during the week (Monday through Friday).

Excused absences will be granted only through pre-arrangement with me. Please make all efforts to contact me as soon as possible if you experience the need to be excused (except for
emergencies, in which case contact me as soon as you can). I reserve the right not to excuse an absence if I do not determine it as reasonable, as per the UK University Senate Handbook of Rules and Regulations (p. 126).

Unexcused absences will affect your final grade by lowering the final percentage points earned. Each week of a 15 week semester is worth 1 percentage point and each face-to-face class meeting is worth 3 percentage points. If you accrue unexcused absences, I will first calculate your final percentage points based on your assignment performance, then subtract the points from unexcused absences to determine your final grade. If you have unexcused absences in excess of 25% of the course meetings (both online and face-to-face) your maximum grade possible is a C.

**Submission of Course Assignments**

Of particular importance to this online course:

- Submissions are due by 11:59 pm on the date assigned.
- Scholarly writing is expected; the use of “texting” styles will not be accepted.
- Papers must be in 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins all around. Use of a standard style manual is required for consistency; APA is preferred.
- Files are only accepted as .doc, .docx, or .rtf
- File names must use this format: LastName_AssignmentName.
- Submissions must be done through the corresponding Assignment Dropbox. I will only accept submissions by e-mail IF you have pre-approval from me.

Late submission: Submissions will be accepted up to 3 days late. After 3 days, you must obtain permission from me to submit the assignment. Submissions are due by 11:59 pm of the day stated. Late submissions of work will lose points. You will be docked 10 percent for every day that an assignment is late, INCLUDING weekends. This is an online class and you have access to it at any time for posting or submitting work.
TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Distance Learning Students are expected to have a minimum level of technological acumen and the availability of technological resources. Students must have regular access a computer with a reliable Internet connection and audio capabilities. Internet Explorer 7 (IE) or Firefox 2.x are the recommended browsers for those using a Windows-based PC. Those using Firefox 3.x may encounter problems with assignment uploads. Those using an Apple computer with MAC OS X (10.5.x) may use Firefox 3.x or Safari 3.x.

Please be certain that your computer and/or browser allow you to view Adobe Reader documents (.pdf). Microsoft Office and other software products are free for students: https://iweb.uky.edu/MSDownload/.

As your instructor, I am your first go-to person for technology problems. If you need more immediate assistance, please contact TASC or UKIT.

Teaching and Learning Services Center (TASC)
http://www.uky.edu/TASC/: 859-257-8272

Information Technology Customer Service Center (UKIT)
http://www.uky.edu/UKIT/: 859-257-1300

Library Services
Distance Learning Services
http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/DLLS
  • Carla Cantagallo, DL Librarian
  • Local phone number: 859 257-0500, ext. 2171; long-distance phone number: (800) 828-0439 (option #6)
  • Email: dllservice@email.uky.edu
  • DL Interlibrary Loan Service: http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb_id=253&llib_id=16

Course Reserves

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

Policies concerning academic integrity, excused absences and academic accommodations due to disability are available online at:
http://www.uky.edu/CIS/SLIS/academics/policies.pdf
## COURSE CALENDAR

*(subject to change)*

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COURSE READING ASSIGNMENTS
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND READINGS
(subject to change)

WEEK ONE: AUGUST 26 – 28
Topic: Welcome to the course
Assigned: none
Due: none
Readings: none

WEEK TWO: AUGUST 28 – SEPTEMBER 4
Topic: Introduction to the humanities
Assigned: none
Due: none
Readings: B&A chapters 1 and 2
Optional:

WEEK THREE: SEPTEMBER 4 – 11
Topic: Information seeking and the humanities
Assigned: none
Due: none
Readings: none from B&A
4. Garfield, E. (1980, January). Is information retrieval in the arts and humanities inherently different from that in science? The effect that ISI’s Citation Index for the Arts and
Humanities is expected to have on future scholarship. *The Library Quarterly, 50*(1), 40-57.


Optional:


**WEEK FOUR: SEPTEMBER 11 – 18**  
Topic: Scholarly communication in the humanities  
Assigned: none  
Due: none  
Readings: none from *B&A*  

**SEPTEMBER 19: FACE-TO-FACE MEETING**  
3:00 – 5:00, Little Fine Arts Library, Room 301  
Topics: Review of weeks 2-4  
Assigned: Annotated bibliography (DUE Dec 16)

**WEEK FIVE: SEPTEMBER 18 – 25**  
Topic: Philosophy  
Assigned: Reference question set 1 (DUE Oct 2)  
Due: none  
Readings: *B&A* chapters 3 and 4

**WEEK SIX: SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 2**  
Topic: Philosophy continued
WEEK SEVEN: OCTOBER 2 – 9
Topic: Religion
Assigned: Reference question set 2 (DUE Oct 16)
Due: none
Readings: B&A chapters 5 and 6

WEEK EIGHT: OCTOBER 9 – 16
Topic: Religion continued
Assigned: none
Due: Oct 16: Reference question set 2
Readings: none

WEEK NINE: OCTOBER 16 – 23
Topic: Visual Arts
Assigned: Reference question set 3 (DUE Oct 30)
Due: none
Readings: B&A chapters 7 and 8

WEEK TEN: OCTOBER 23 – 30
Topic: Visual Arts continued
Assigned: none
Due: Oct 30: Reference question set 3
Readings: none

WEEK ELEVEN: OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 6
Topic: Performing Arts
Assigned: Reference question set 4 (DUE Nov 13)
Due: none
Readings: B&A chapters 9 and 10

WEEK TWELVE: NOVEMBER 6 – 13
Topic: Performing Arts continued
Assigned: none
Due: Nov 13: Reference question set 4
Readings: none

WEEK THIRTEEN: NOVEMBER 13 – 20
Topic: Language and Literature
Assigned: Reference question set 5 (DUE Dec 4)
Due: none
Readings: B&A chapters 11 and 12

WEEK FOURTEEN: NOVEMBER 20 – DECEMBER 4
Topic: Language and Literature continued
Assigned: Final exam guidelines posted
Due: Dec 4: Reference question set 5
Readings: none

NOVEMBER 25 – 29: THANKSGIVING BREAK – ENJOY!

WEEK FIFTEEN: DECEMBER 4 – 11
Topic: Wrap-up
Assigned: none
Due: none
Readings: none

DECEMBER 12: FACE-TO-FACE MEETING
3:00 – 5:30, Little Library Room 303 – Final Exam

DECEMBER 16: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE