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

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.

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 3 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.

Essays: You will write three essays in this course. Each essay should be around 2000 words (five pages) and will be worth 20% of your final grade. More information about the essay topics will be available in Blackboard.
Final Exam: This will be a test taken through Blackboard to evaluate your mastery of basic information and concepts throughout the semester. It is worth 20% of your final grade.

Grading. The final grade in this course is determined according to the following percentages:

- Participation: 20%
- Essay #1: 20%
- Essay #2: 20%
- Essay #3: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

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.

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/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:** 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/).

**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.

Attendance, etc.: Each classmember must contribute regularly (i.e., at least 3 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. Acceptable reasons for an excused absence from course activities include serious illness or bereavement; 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/). Students with documented disabilities must contact the instructor and the Disability Resource Center in advance of requests for accommodation. Papers for this class require original research and writing. Quotation of others’ work without full attribution is a violation of ethics and UK policy; Academic Senate rules stipulate an E grade, or worse, in instances of plagiarism.

Weekly Schedule

WEEK 1 (8/28-9/01): Introduction to course.

- Buy textbook.
- Complete academic integrity training, linked on Blackboard.
- Complete training on finding, evaluating, and using resources, linked on Blackboard.
- Contribute to Blackboard discussions.
  - Note: This is an ongoing expectation for each week of the semester.

WEEK 2 (9/02-9/08): History of libraries and information technology.


WEEK 3 (9/09-9/15): The sociology of professions and the profession of librarianship.


WEEK 4 (9/16-9/22): Defining “information” and “information science.”

- Note: Essay #1 due Sunday, 9/22, by midnight EST. See Assignments folder in Blackboard for more information.


**WEEK 5 (9/23-9/29): Information seeking and information services.**


• Buckland, M. (1988). Chapter 9: Becoming informed (pp. 115-126) and Chapter 10: Demand (pp, 127-142). In *Library services in theory and context (2nd ed.)*. New York: Pergamon Press. Available at [http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Literature/Library/Services](http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Literature/Library/Services)


**WEEK 6 (9/30-10/06): The Information Society: Implications for libraries.**


**WEEK 7 (10/07-10/13): Libraries by type/organization: Public and school libraries.**


**WEEK 8 (10/14-10/20): Libraries by type/organization: Academic & special libraries.**

• Note: Essay #2 due Sunday, 10/20, by midnight EST. See Assignments folder in Blackboard for more information.


Shamel, C.L. (July/August, 2002). Building a brand: Got librarian? *Searcher, 10*(7). Available at: http://www.infotoday.com/searcher/jul02/shamel.htm


**WEEK 9 (10/21-10/27): Issues: Changes and ethics.**


**WEEK 10 (10/28-11/03): Issues: Intellectual freedom and censorship.**


**WEEK 11 (11/04-11/10): Issues: Diversity in our communities.**


**WEEK 12 (11/11-11/17): Issues: Privacy.**


**WEEK 13 (11/18-11/24): Issues: Copyright and open access.**

• *Note: Essay #3 due Sunday, 11/24, by midnight EST. See Assignments folder in Blackboard for more information.*
• 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](http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/copyright/copyrightarticle/librariescreatures.cfm)
• Suber, P. (2010). Open access overview. [http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm](http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm)

**WEEK 14 (11/25-12/01): Image and status of the information professions, part one.**

• Dupre, D. The perception of image and status in the library profession.
• 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](http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/bitstream/1813/3902/1/archetype.html)


**NOTE:** 11/28-11/31 are officially UK Thanksgiving Break academic holidays.

**WEEK 15 (12/02-12/08):** Image and status of the information professions, part two.


• 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 16 (12/09-12/15):** Prepare and post a 200-400 word comment on the sources you used for the three essays this semester. At the least, identify what you thought was the most interesting article you found overall, and what you learned from it. In addition, respond to your classmates.

*The final exam is to be taken between 9 a.m. (EST) on Monday, 12/16, and 11 p.m. (EST) on Tuesday, 12/17 – the last week of the UK semester. This is the final requirement of the course.*