LIS 645-201: Information in Society, Fall 2016

Format: online class
Instructor Information: Dr. Shannon M. Oltmann
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(contact by email is preferred, for reasons of timeliness)
Office Hours: Wednesday, 2-4 pm and Thursday, 12-2 pm

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.

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 business hours (responses may be slower during the weekends and holidays). Please include the course number in brackets [645] 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 Sunday and end on Saturday (with the exception of the first week, which runs Wednesday through Saturday). The definitive schedule is online; 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: Introduction to Public Librarianship (2nd edition) by Kathleen de la Pena McCook (ISBN 978-1555706975). The other readings will be made available to you online. Other material may also be required, such as PowerPoint slides 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 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) on Saturday, 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 online environment. Detailed information will become available as the assignment due date nears.
Participation: In this course, participation is measured by your contributions to the online discussions each week. Each classmember must contribute regularly (i.e., at least 2 postings) to each set of Discussion Board questions—the equivalent of a "B" grade for "participation." (Note: this means at least two posts per week, not two posts for each question each week.) Less participation will lower the grade; frequent, informed, substantive participation will raise it. In addition, consistently thoughtful contributions that advance discussion will receive more credit. Participation is worth 15% of your final grade.

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

- Participation: 15%
- Library observation: 30%
- Public relations project: 15%
- Library services paper: 20%
- Librarian interview: 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 20 points, and it is one day late, you will lose 2 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 (859-257-2754) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities. This is available to distance students as well.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance (as documented by participation in online 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.
Weekly Schedule

Week One (8/24-8/27): Introduction to course
- Buy textbook
- Read syllabus and review the assignment guidelines
- Introduce yourself online and read other people’s comments

Week Two (8/28-9/03): Definition & philosophy of public libraries
- McCook textbook: Chapter 1.
- Tisdale, S. (1996). Silence, please: The public library as entertainment center. *Harper’s Magazine*, March, 65-74. [Note: this will seem dated to you in some ways, such as its skepticism about the internet, but its general argument is still relevant today.]

Week Three (9/04-9/10): History of public libraries (part 1)
- McCook textbook: Chapter 2
  - Recommended: Click the link at the bottom of the page to watch a webcast about the history of the Library of Congress

Week Four (9/11-9/17): History of public libraries (part 2)
- McCook textbook: Chapter 3

Week Five (9/18-9/24): Defining & measuring success
Note: Librarian Interview assignment due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Saturday, 9/24
• McCook textbook: Chapter 4
• State-level standards for public libraries. Each state has its own standards. Look up and read the standards for a state not listed here. I encourage you to find the standards for the state in which you live or hope to work. Examples:
  o Indiana: http://www.in.gov/library/standards.htm and http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T05900/A00060.PDF?
  o Maine: http://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/standards/
• The Public Library Association, Public Library Data Service (PLDS): http://www.ala.org/pla/publications/plds

Week Six (9/25-10/01): Organization, advocacy, & public relations
• McCook textbook: Chapter 5
• Association of library trustees, advocates, friends, and foundations. Citizens-save-libraries power guide: http://www.ala.org/united/powerguide . This page contains numerous links to documents, videos, etc., all useful tools for advocating for libraries. Please review at least two links on this page.
Week Seven (10/02-10/08): Budgets, planning, & finance
- Information from the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. The Library budget manual:
- Information from the Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives:
  - Library Administrators: Funding and fiscal operations. Available here: [http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/administrators/Pages/Funding.aspx](http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/administrators/Pages/Funding.aspx). Click on some of the links at the bottom of the page to learn about different nuances.

Week Eight (10/09-10/15): Administration & staffing
*Note: Public Relations assignment due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Saturday, 10/15*
- McCook textbook: Chapter 6
- Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Board/director relationship: [http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/administrators/Pages/BoardDirector.aspx](http://kdla.ky.gov/librarians/administrators/Pages/BoardDirector.aspx)
Week Nine (10/16-10/22): Structure, infrastructure, & facilities

- McCook textbook: Chapter 7

Week Ten (10/23-10/29): Collections & acquisitions

Note: Part 1 of the Library Observation assignment due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Saturday, 10/29


Week Eleven (10/30-11/05): Adult services & youth services

(Note: This week the class will divide into two groups; one will read about adult services and one will read about youth services. All students are expected to read all discussion threads.)

Adult services:

- McCook textbook: Chapter 8
- Review pp. 136-140 from the Prentice reading in week four.
Youth services:
- McCook textbook: Chapter 9
- Review pp. 140-143 from the Prentice reading in week four.

**Week Twelve (11/06-11/12): Emerging technologies**
- Other readings to be determined

**Week Thirteen (11/13-11/19): Issues in rural & urban libraries**
*Note: The Library Services paper is due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, 11/19*
(Note: This week the class will divide into two groups; one will read about rural libraries and one will read about urban libraries. All students are expected to read all discussion threads.)

**Rural libraries:**


Urban libraries:


**Week Fourteen (11/20-11/22): Associations & organizations**

*Note: 11/23-11/26 are official university holidays*

• McCook textbook: Chapter 10

• Public Library Association website. Available at: [http://www.ala.org/pla/](http://www.ala.org/pla/)
  o Browse the sections “Online Learning” and “Professional Tools,” including following some of the links.


**Week Fifteen (11/27-12/03): Intellectual freedom & related issues**

• McCook textbook: Chapter 12


• Resources from the American Library Association:
  o Censorship and First Amendment issues: [http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/censorshipfirstamendmentissues](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/censorshipfirstamendmentissues)
    (read the information at all of the links)
  o Library Bill of Rights: [http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill)
Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights: [http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations) (click on and read at least three interpretations)


**Week Sixteen (12/04-12/10): Global perspectives**

*Note: Part 2 of the Library Observation assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, 12/10*

- McCook textbook: Chapter 11
- Sternheim J. (2016). I have to change to stay the same. *New Library World, 117*(1), 22-34.
- Resources from the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA):
  - More about IFLA: [http://www.ifla.org/about/more](http://www.ifla.org/about/more)
  - Activities and groups: [http://www.ifla.org/activities-and-groups](http://www.ifla.org/activities-and-groups) (read about at least two activities, groups, sections, etc.)