LIS 600-401: Information in Society, Spring 2015

Format: online
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(contact by email is preferred, for reasons of timeliness)
Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 2-4 p.m.

I. 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 library science and information science; core concepts of the field; the ethics and foundational principles of the field; key issues faced by LIS practitioners, and relevant social, economic, and cultural trends.

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 (it may be longer over weekends and during holidays). 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 Sunday and end on Saturday. The reading (and any other activities) listed for a particular week should be completed before the class begins on Sunday.

II. 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 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 Blackboard environment. Detailed information
will become available as the assignment due date nears. All assignments will be turned in via Blackboard and returned to students via Blackboard.

**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." (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 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 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.
III. 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:** Regular attendance 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/).

IV. Weekly Schedule

*Part One: Introduction to library and information science (LIS)*

**Week One (01/14-01/17): Introduction to program and core competencies**

- SLIS graduation requirements and the final portfolio: [https://ci.uky.edu/lis/content/graduation-requirements-and-final-portfolio](https://ci.uky.edu/lis/content/graduation-requirements-and-final-portfolio)
  - Click on the “most current instructions” and read them (Note: these instructions may change as you progress through the program)
- Complete academic integrity training, linked on Blackboard.
- Complete training on finding, evaluating, and using resources, linked on Blackboard.
Week Two (01/18-01/24): History of library science and information science
- Rubin textbook: Chapter 2: From past to present (pp. 35-76) and Chapter 7: Information science: A service perspective (pp. 271-309).

Week Three (01/25-01/31): Information society: Implications for LIS
- Rubin textbook: Chapter 1: The educational, recreational and informational infrastructure (pp. 7-34).

Week Four (02/01-02/07): Informatics


Week Five (02/08-02/14): Professionalism and LIS professions
Note: Essay #1 due by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 02/14; submit via Blackboard
• Rubin textbook: Chapter 3: Library & information science: An evolving profession (pp. 77-126).
• Three-part series on library professionalism:

Part Two: LIS Institutions

Week Six (02/15-02/21): Libraries by type: Public and school libraries
• Rubin textbook: Chapter 5: The library as an institution (pp. 165-224).

Week Seven (02/22-02/28): Libraries by type: Academic and special libraries
Week Eight (03/01-03/07): Data centers and other information centers

Part Three: Policies, Ethics, and Issues

Week Nine (03/08-03/14): Information policies
- Rubin textbook: Chapter 8: Information policy: Stakeholders and agendas (pp. 309-370).

Note: Spring Break is 03/16-03/21

Week Ten (03/22-03/28): LIS issues and ethics
Note: Essay #2 due by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 03/28; submit via Blackboard
- Rubin textbook: Chapter 10: The values and ethics of LIS (pp. 405-439).


Week Eleven (03/29-04/04): Issues: Intellectual freedom and censorship

- Rubin textbook: Chapter 9: Information policy as library policy (pp. 371-404).

Week Twelve (04/05-04/11): Issues: Copyright, intellectual property, and open access


**Week Thirteen (04/12-04/18): Issues: Privacy and big data**

**Week Fourteen (04/19-04/25): Issues: Diversity in our communities**
**Note: Essay #3 due by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 04/25; submit via Blackboard**

**Week Fifteen (04/26-05/02): Image and status of information professions**
  http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/08/fashion/08librarian.html?em&ex=1183953600&en=a003ba925f48b89b&ei=5087%0A


• Watch one of the following videos (available via a library, Netflix, video rental store, or other location).
  - Desk Set (1957)
  - Foul Play (1978)
  - Forbidden (1932)
  - Goodbye Columbus (1969)
  - The Music Man (1962 or 2003)
  - Gun in Betty Lou’s Handbag (1992)
  - Soylent Green (1973)
  - Ghostbusters (1984)
  - Party Girl (1995)
  - Shooting the Past (1999)
  - Where the Heart Is (2000)
  - Mummy (1999)
  - The Name of the Rose (1986)
  - The Librarian: The Quest for the Spear (2004; the first of a trilogy; see below)
  - The Librarian: Return to King Solomon’s Mines (2006)
  - The Librarian: The Curse of the Judas Chalice (2009)
  - The Time Traveler’s Wife (2009)
  - Storm Center (1956)
  - The Crimson Rivers (2000)
  - Shawshank Redemption (1994)
  - Pagemaster (1994)
  - Fast and Loose (1939)


  http://wings.buffalo.edu/publications/mcjrl/v1n1/image.html