



James L. & Dorothy H. Dewar
COLLEGE of EDUCATION
& HUMAN SERVICES
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Library and Information Studies
MLIS 7700 Research Methods, Sections IA & IB
Fall 2023
Three Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Linda R. Most, Ph.D.
Odum 4600 or online
229-245-6534
lrmost@valdosta.edu
Office hours available by appointment via chat, phone, video conference, or on campus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: MLIS 7000. An introduction to the various approaches to social science research and research methods. Students will perform small scale research projects and develop skills in the research uses of libraries and the needs of library patrons.

TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXT

Babbie, E. R. (2021). The practice of social research (15th ed.). Cengage Learning.

or

Babbie, E. R. (2016). The practice of social research (14th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Additional resources (readings, videos, websites, etc.) will be available electronically via GALILEO databases, on Odum Library course reserve, or through the course BlazeVIEW website

Please familiarize yourself with the VSU policy that prohibits the use of the Interlibrary Loan service for obtaining textbooks at

<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/general/about/policies/ill/borrowing.php>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to meet these Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). The SLOs are aligned with MLS program objectives (<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/our-program/>):

SLO 1. Recognize the inter-relationships of theory, research, and scientific inquiry (PO3).

SLO 2. Discuss basic ethical issues associated with conducting research (PO3, PO4).

SLO 3. Distinguish between qualitative and quantitative research methods (PO3).

SLO 4. Identify the basic elements in the design of social research studies (PO3).

SLO 5. Relate terminology, concepts, and processes of social research to studies conducted in the library and information science (LIS) field (PO3).

This course addresses selected 2009 American Library Association Core Competences of Librarianship, the basic knowledge to be possessed by all persons graduating from an ALA-accredited master's program in library and information studies, Section 6. Research (<http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/careers/corecomp/corecompetences>):

- 6A. The fundamentals of quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- 6B. The central research findings and research literature of the field.
- 6C. The principles and methods used to assess the actual and potential value of new research.

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

The following list is a brief overview of the activities included in this course in order of their assignment. Look for complete instructions and grading criteria for each assignment on the BlazeVIEW course site.

Weekly Topic Quizzes (20 points)

Complete 5 quizzes designed to help you learn the course content.

CITI certificates & Discussion (10 points)

Post your reactions to questions related to ethical issues. In addition, you are required to complete an online tutorial on human subjects and institutional review board procedures. Submit certificates to the CITI Certificate Assignment tool. [SLOs 2, 5]

Quantitative Article Evaluation (10 points)

Evaluate a quantitative study from the library and information science literature [SLOs 3, 4, 5].

Qualitative Article Evaluation (10 points)

Evaluate a qualitative study from the library and information science literature [SLOs 3, 4, 5].

Data Analysis: (15 points)

Analyze a provided dataset in order to answer a set of research questions [SLOs 3, 4, 5].

Green Library Assessment Project (35 points)

You will conduct a small research project to assess library accessibility. The project comprises four assignments to complete [SLOs 3, 4, 5].

- 1) Site selection: you will select a library to assess this semester.
- 2) Developing a list of indicators: You will develop a list of library accessibility indicators that you will look for via your observations. (10 points)
- 3) Presentation: you will develop a short presentation to share the findings in your report. (10 points)
- 4) Assessment Project Report (15 points)

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All written work must be submitted as attachments to the assignment modules in the BlazeView course website using Word formats (.doc or .docx suffixes only).

LATE SUBMISSIONS, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, & MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS

All course work is due inside BlazeView on the date and time indicated on the course calendar. Any exception without penalties must be negotiated in advance. Technological crises are not acceptable excuses for submitting work late unless BlazeView is down at the time the work is due.

Up to 20% of the possible assignment grade will be deducted from the student's score for every additional 24 hours or increment thereof that the work is late up until the day the BlazeView assignment submission window closes. If you need additional time to work on an assignment or if you have a scheduling conflict you must contact your instructor **BEFORE** the assignment is due to discuss your situation. The instructor **WILL NOT** accept work after the assignment submission window closes without prior consent.

MLIS PROGRAM E-PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT

An E-Portfolio is required for graduation by all students. Details may be found on the department website. Assignments from this course that you might consider including in your portfolio include the library assessment report and presentation.

COURSE GRADES

Course grades will be awarded as follows:

- A: 90%–100%
- B: 80%–89%
- C: 70%–7%
- D: 60%–69%
- F: Lower than 60%

No grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree and students must receive a grade of B or better to earn credit in core courses and the required collection development elective.

Because MLIS 7700 is an MLIS core course, a grade of B or better is required or the course must be repeated to meet MLIS degree requirements.

An overall grade of zero can be assigned to an entire paper or project if the instructor determines that its contents, or parts of its contents, were completed by a second party **or copied into a paper or project from a source without proper citing**. Noncompliance with rules on appropriate use of resources will result in zero credit for those parts of the assignment affected. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

VSU requires that you attend class in the first week. *Student must use the relevant discussion forum in BlazeVIEW to introduce themselves to their classmates as proof of attendance (no post by the end of the first week will result in the student being dropped from the class).*

All course activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW. Course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is your responsibility to participate in all course activities and submit assignments on time. It is in your best interest to log into the course at least several times each week (daily is best) to check announcements, discussion board posts, and emails.

COMMUNICATION

Communication will be conducted through BlazeVIEW course email, postings and replies in the discussion board, and/or BlazeVIEW announcements. Check these areas at least several times per week (daily is recommended) as you are responsible for knowing all information communicated through these channels.

VSU requires that all correspondence between the student and the instructor be conducted through official university channels. To that end, all email correspondence related to this course is to be sent using the email client built into the BlazeVIEW course website. For other correspondence with any VSU faculty members or administrative offices, please use your VSU email account.

If you would like to speak with the instructor by telephone, chat, or video conference, please email your instructor to arrange a mutually convenient time.

PROFESSIONALISM

The Department of Library and Information Studies expects you to pursue your academic endeavors and conduct yourself in a professional and ethical manner. All work submitted in the course must represent your own efforts. Cite sources and include reference information. You should communicate in a professional manner in both speech and writing and maintain a professional attitude, being respectful to others and their viewpoints. Exercise an awareness of the pervasiveness of the online environment and strive to maintain a professional online presence.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/student-handbook.php>) and the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism (<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php>). All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics. Consequences for acts of academic dishonesty are detailed in the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism.

VSU's Academic Student Conduct Code states that "no student shall engage in plagiarism, which is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were the student's own." Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper citation is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

For more information, visit Academic Honesty at VSU (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsua.php>).

STUDENT OPINION OF INSTRUCTION SURVEY

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available through SmartEvals. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the SOI Procedures webpage (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/>).

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND TITLE IX STATEMENT

Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Mr. Darius Thomas. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Christina Kidd, Student Conduct Coordinator at chkidd@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

Helpful Links

Technical Support (IT helpdesk)	https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/
Center for eLearning (support for BlazeVIEW)	https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/
Academic Support Center	https://www.valdosta.edu/asc/

Hope Connect (Mental Health Services)	https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/hope-connect-about.php
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