VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY& INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7570 Information Architecture
Syllabus--Spring Semester 2014
Three Credit Hours

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Course Description:

Prerequisite or corequisite: MLIS 7000 or consent of the instructor.

Theory and techniques of designing Web sites for effective information delivery. Study of organization, labeling, navigation, and indexing systems is included.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Articulate basic principles of information architecture
- Assess the usability of an online information service
- Identify appropriate changes to organization, labeling, navigation, and search systems in a website that enhance design and usability
- Effectively manage website development process from a user-centered view
- Analyze users' information needs and information seeking behaviors

Class Activities:

Class activities include a set of readings, assignments, weekly exercises, online discussions, and a term project. Details for each week are posted in the appropriate folder on the course website. ***It is the student's responsibility to check the course calendar for DUE DATES for all class work and the weekly folders and assignment folders for all required and supplemental readings and other materials.*** Full descriptions of all required course work are provided in the assignments section of the course website.

Textbooks and Required Readings:

There is no required text for the course.

Suggested Reading:

- Morville, P., & Rosenfeld, L. (2006). *Information Architecture for the World Wide Web* (3rd ed). Cambridge: O'Reilly. ISBN: 0-596-52734-9 (Available online through VSU Library)
- Sklar, J. (2008). *Principles of Web Design* (4th ed). Course Technology ISBN: 978-1423901945
- Koyani, S. J., Bailey, R. W., & Nall, J. R. (2004). *Research-Based Web Design & Usability Guidelines*. Computer Psychology.   ISBN: 978-0974996905. Available online at http://guidelines.usability.gov/

This is not a course in HTML scripting per se, nor is it expected that the student will have any prior knowledge of web development activities but it is the responsibility of the student to have a basic understanding of the Internet and general computing literacy. This course will enable the student to obtain the web development skills from a user-centered view. There are also required, supplemental readings for each of the course's topical units. These readings are made available to students through the web, as citations, URLs, or PDF files. It is expected that each student will have the ability to download and open up both PDF files and MS Word files.

Grading:

A set of readings, assignments, online discussions, and a term project will be assigned.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Discussion postings (4 @ 3pts each) =12pts
- HTML & CSS exercises (6 @ 5pts each) = 30pts
- Two tutorial quizzes (2 @ 3 pts each) = 6pts
- Developing Websites (4 @ 8pts each) = 32pts
    - Part1: Site Specifications Proposal
    - Part2: First Website Upload
    - Part 3: Second Website Upload
    - Part 4: Final Website Upload
- Web site organization & structures =5pts
- Web site evaluation = 15pts

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- A   90 - 100
- B   80 - 89
- C   70 - 79
- D   60 - 69
- F   0 - 59

Assignment Submission:

- Deadlines for each graded activity are clearly stated on the MLIS 7370 Course Calendar posted on the course home page on BlazeView.
- There is a one (1) day grace period for each graded activity after its original due date: No grace period for discussion postings.
- Missing a deadline for any graded activity may result in a reduction in grade (i.e., 10% deduction from the original mark for each day after 1-day grace period) unless a mutually acceptable alternative is arranged with the instructor.
- All assignments must be submitted via assignment drop box on BlazeView.

Course Requirements:

Discussion postings (12 pts)

- Student should respond to questions posted by the instructor.

HTML &CSS Exercise (30 pts)

- Students will complete weekly assignments that provide an opportunity to demonstrate familiarity with the course content.
- Students must use VSU server to host their Web pages and submit URLs to these pages must be submitted through assignment drop box as assignment deliverable.
- Collaboration on homework assignments is encouraged (keep in mind that collaborative work on assignments doesn't mean that one can plagiarize another person's work).

Tutorial Quizzes (6 pts)

- The two quizzes are worth 3 pts and are graded pass/fail. Pass=3W3schools score of 18-20; Fail=0 W3schools score of less than 18.

Developing Websites (32 pts)

- The purpose of this assignment is to allow students to demonstrate their understanding of basic information architecture principles covered in class by designing and implementing a simple static website from scratch or by using web-based services.
- Students will develop a site specification proposal
- Students will develop web sites for a variety of clients. The minimum requirements for each site are at least 8 web pages and one CSS external stylesheet.

Web site organization & structures (5 pts)

- Student will draw a web structure diagram to practice creating and understanding relationship between pages.

Website Evaluation Assignment (15 pts)

- Students will conduct and document a heuristic evaluation of a website.

Technological Requirements:

As this is an online course that also focuses its attention on online information services, students must have almost daily access to the Internet. That access will use email and the web (through the student's browser) for class-related communication. It is expected that each student will be capable of dealing with PDF files and MS Words documents.

To meet all class requirements, you should also be prepared to: (1) check the BlazeVIEW course homepage several times a week, sometimes daily, if a course discussion is in progress; (2) locate additional course readings using the GALILEO databases and download or print these out (this may require a PDF reader application on your computer); and (3) keep electronic backup copies of each assignment and project you submit.

Communication

Faculty Office discussion board: The faculty office discussion board will be available for the duration of the semester. Please post course-related questions that may be relevant to your classmates on the discussion board. Please read the faculty office discussion board regularly.

If you have a personal question please send it to me via BlazeView course e-mail. Instructor checks his e-mail and telephone messages at least twice daily throughout normal business hours (M-F, 9-5).

By institutional policy, instructors are asked to communicate with students online through VSU accounts (BlazeView and VSU Email).

Distance Learning Support:
The university's Information Technology department provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU's email and other sources. The IT Help Desk is at http://www.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/guides/ and their phone hotline is 229-245-4357.
BlazeVIEW is powered by the Desire2Learn (D2L) course learning system. D2L

provides 24/7 support 365 days a year. To contact D2L, go to https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu or call the hotline at 855-772-0423.

To ask questions about **availability or location of VSU online resources**, use the VSU Library's Live Chat or E-mail at: http://www.valdosta.edu/library/ask.php. You may also phone the VSU Library's reference service at (229) 333-7149.

University Policies

Academic Honesty at Valdosta State University
Valdosta State University expects that graduate students will pursue their academic endeavors and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. All work that a student presents to satisfy course requirements should represent his or her own efforts, including appropriate use and acknowledgement of external sources.

Specific regulations related to student conduct and behavior are contained in the *Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics*. Please acquaint yourself with the full policy at http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/student-handbook.php

It is **your responsibility** to make sure you understand how to avoid breeches of academic integrity. The instructor posts rules for citing, quoting, and appropriate use of resources for assignments that require written compositions, reviews, or commentary.

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.

Asking librarians or staff in a library to provide answers or to conduct research to fulfill any part of a graded course requirement is an infraction of academic integrity. The same policy applies to contacting any free or commercial reference service for assistance with a graded assignment.

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. This, of course, does not apply to group projects that require collaboration on a final product.

Special Needs Statement
Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of our institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin, or the handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as the Title IX section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students requiring classroom

accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY).

Student Conduct
All interactions related to this class are to be conducted respectfully and professionally whether during face to face meetings, online interactions, small group work, e-mail or telephone communication according to the Student Code of Conduct as presented in the Valdosta State University Student Handbook, beginning on page 64: http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/student-handbook.php

Student Agreement
Enrollment in this class signifies that you agree to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that the instructor may adapt or change this syllabus and the assignments contained within it if extraordinary circumstances arise during the course of the semester.

By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to TurnItIn, a tool within BlazeVIEW. For more information on the use of TurnItIn at VSU, go to http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/academic-honesty-at-vsu.php .