

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE**  
**MLIS 7800 Capstone**  
**Syllabus—Fall Semester 2009**  
Three Credit Hours

**Instructor:**

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**Course Description**

Capstone is required for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MLIS degree. Emphasis will be on synthesis of knowledge, honing writing and presentation skills, and creating a professional development plan.

**Course Objectives**

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Synthesize knowledge gained throughout the course of study and apply that knowledge to the consideration of current professional issues.
2. Make an effective professional presentation.
3. Write a paper of publishable quality.
4. Create a professional development plan.
5. Navigate the job hunting process.
6. Articulate personal professional goals.

**Course Prerequisite or Corequisite:** Taken during the final semester of study

**Required Text**

Rubin, Richard E. *Foundations of Library and Information Science*. New York: Neal Schuman. The edition you used in *Foundations* will be fine.

**Assignments**

**Capstone paper:** You will prepare a paper of publishable quality on a topic of your choice, with the topic subject to instructor approval. Paper length and style will depend on topic and on requirements of appropriate publication venues. Paper topic selection is due September 6. Draft due November 29. Final paper is due on the first exam day, December 9.

**Capstone presentation:** You will do a conference-style presentation about your research proposal for your Capstone Paper in Wimba Classroom. You will use PowerPoint slides to illustrate points and information. Your presentation will answer the following: Why

you selected the topic? Your approach to research. Your research questions or objectives. What you hope to find out. Make your presentation asynchronously and archive it.

**Portfolio:** You will update, present and discuss your portfolio. Discussion and sharing of portfolio issues will occur in BlazeVIEW. Feedback will be provided by the instructor and classmates. Revised portfolios are due on December 4, 2009, either in the Assignment Module or by mail or package service. After grading and review by other faculty members, notebook portfolios will be returned by mail or package service.

**Professional Development Plan:** Each student will create and record a personal plan for professional development. For students who need to seek employment, this will include a detailed job-hunting plan. For all students, this will include plans for solidifying and updating their professional knowledge in the two-year period following graduation. Submit via BlazeVIEW no later than October 4, 2009.

**Reflection on MLIS Experience:** Each student will prepare an essay that reflects on and evaluates his or her experience with the MLIS degree program. The essay will include the student's determination of strengths and weaknesses within the program. Submit via BlazeVIEW no later than November 1, 2009.

**Current Issues Discussions:** There will be six current issues discussions lasting one week. You or your team will moderate a class discussion of a current issue in LIS. You will use a topic that has appeared in LIS or popular literature during the past year. Current issue topics will be discussed during the first week of class. Topics are due for approval on August 28, 2009. The first topic will be selected in the first week discussion. For each topic, you will identify pieces of published literature that state all sides of the issue and you will prepare one or more questions to guide the discussion. Each team will summarize its discussion in BlazeVIEW no later than October 11, 2009.

### Requirements

Presentation	25%	Prof Dev Plan	10%
Paper	25%	Reflective Essay	10%
Portfolio	15%	Current Issues Discussions	15%

### Grading

#### General Grading Scale

- A** excellent work - among the best work seen at the graduate level
- B** satisfactory work - better than average work at the graduate level
- C** honest attempt - needs moderate to major revisions to be satisfactory
- D** perfunctory or missing work

**Late** work is dropped one letter grade

### **Final Grading Scale**

- A** - always satisfactory, often excellent
- B** - mostly satisfactory, occasionally excellent
- C** - sometimes satisfactory, often needs revisions
- D** - rarely satisfactory, often perfunctory, late or missing
- F** - lacking even an attempt to learn or do, dishonesty, plagiarism

### **Calendar and Agenda**

This is primarily a BlazeVIEW class with sessions in Wimba Classroom.  
Weeks are numbered Monday to Sunday.

- Week 1: Monday, August 17-August 23  
Introductions in discussion module  
Assignments for the term  
Current Issues Topics  
Sunday, August 23, First Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 2: August 24-August 30, First Current Issue Discussion  
Friday, August 28, Current Issue Topics due in BlazeVIEW  
August 30, Second Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 3: August 31-September 6, Second Current Issue Discussion  
September 6, Third Current Issue Topic posted  
Sunday, September 6, Paper Topics due
- Week 4: Labor Day, September 7  
September 8-September 13, Third Current Issue Discussion  
September 13, Fourth Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 5: September 14-September 20, Fourth Current Issue Discussion  
September 20, Fifth Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 6: September 21-September 27, Fifth Current Issue Discussion  
September 27, Sixth Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 7: September 28-October 4, Sixth Current Issue Discussion  
Sunday, October 4, Professional Development Plan due
- Week 8: Mid-term of semester, Thursday, October 8  
Sunday, October 11, Current Issues Summary due
- Week 9: Sunday, October 18, Capstone Presentations due in Wimba Classroom.

Week 10: Spring Break, Monday-Tuesday, October 19-20

Week 11: Sunday, November 1, Experience Essay due

Weeks 12, 13, & 14: No assignments due

Week 15: Thanksgiving Holiday, Wednesday-Friday, November 25-27  
Sunday, November 29, Paper Drafts due

Week 16: Friday, December 4, Portfolios due

Week 17: Wednesday, December 9, Capstone paper due.

*Deadline for dropping the class without academic penalty is Midterm.*

### **Academic Dishonesty**

“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*.

### **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 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 not registered with the Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room 2164, 229-245-2498.

### **Attendance**

This is a Web-delivered course with a final face-to-face class. All assignments and discussions utilize WebCT Vista. Your participation is integral to the course design; therefore, it is expected that students will make consistent, contributive participation a high priority. **If you are compelled to miss a scheduled assignment, you must negotiate a mutually acceptable alternative with the instructor to make a passing grade.**