

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7800 Capstone
Syllabus—Spring Semester 2010
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 February 1. Draft due April 26. Final paper is due on the second exam day, May 6.

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 May 1, 2010, 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 March 1, 2010.

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 March 29, 2010.

Current Issues Discussions: There will be five 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 January 23, 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 March 8, 2010.

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: January 12-January 18
Introductions in discussion module
Assignments for the term
Current Issues Topics
Sunday, January 18, First Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 2: Monday, January 19, MLK Holiday, University Closed
January 20-January 25, First Current Issue Discussion
Friday, January 23, Current Issue Topics due in BlazeVIEW
January 25, Second Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 3: January 26-February 1, Second Current Issue Discussion
February 1, Third Current Issue Topic posted
Sunday, February 1, Paper Topics due
- Week 4: February 2-February 8, Third Current Issue Discussion
February 8, Fourth Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 5: February 9-February 15, Fourth Current Issue Discussion
February 15, Fifth Current Issue Topic posted
- Week 6: February 15-February 22, Fifth Current Issue Discussion
- Week 7: February 23-March 1, Begin Wimba Classroom Practice
Sunday, March 1, Professional Development Plan due
- Week 8: Mid-term of semester, Wednesday, March 4
March 2-March 8, Capstone Presentations in Wimba Classroom
Sunday, March 8, Current Issues Summary due
- Week 9: Sunday, March 15, Capstone Presentations due in Wimba Classroom.

Week 10: Spring Break, Monday-Friday, March 16-20

Week 11: Sunday, March 29, Experience Essay due

Weeks 12, 13, & 14: No assignments due

Week 15: Sunday, April 26, Paper Drafts due

Week 16: Friday, May 1, Portfolios due

Week 17: Wednesday, May 6, 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.**