

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE**  
**MLIS 7800 Capstone**  
**Syllabus—Summer semester 2007**  
Three Credit Hours

**Instructor:**

George R. Gaumond, Ph. D.  
Odum Library—1500 N. Patterson Street  
Valdosta, GA 31698-0150

Phone: 229/333-5860  
FAX: 229/259-5055  
E-mail: gaumond@valdosta.edu

**Course Description**

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**

**Major presentation and paper:** You will prepare a conference-style presentation and a paper of publishable quality on a topic of your choice, with the topic subject to instructor approval. Presentations will last 15-20 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions and discussion. Paper length and style will depend on topic and on requirements of appropriate publication venues. Paper topic selection due June 11. Draft due July 20. Optional rehearsal or “dry run” of presentation, July 23-25. Presentation and final paper are due at class on July 27, 2007.

**Portfolio:** You will update, present and discuss your portfolio. Feedback will be provided by the instructor and classmates. Discussion and sharing of portfolio issues should occur via WebCT Vista. Revised portfolios must be mailed by July 16, 2007.

**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 WebCT Vista no later than July 6, 2007.

**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 WebCT Vista no later than July 13, 2007.

**Current Issues Discussions:** The class will be divided into two groups. All students will review the assigned text. Group one will choose a topic and present an issue and offer a position or opinion why the issue is important for librarianship. Group two will react to the position, which may be pro or con. Group one members will need to communicate among themselves to arrive at consensus about the issue. One person will post. All members of Group two will react on the discussion list. All discussion will end in five days. Group roles will then reverse. The reacting group will choose a topic from the next chapters and post it to the discussion list by the next due date.

Rubin Ch 1 and 2. June 11.

Rubin Ch 3. June 18.

Rubin Ch 4 and 5. June 25.

Rubin Ch 6 and 7. July 2.

Rubin Ch 8 and 9. July 9.

## Requirements

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

## 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 a WebCT Vista class with the final paper presentation in a face-to-face session on Friday, July 27, at Valdosta or a central location to be chosen after final registration.

- Week 1:        Assignments for the term  
                  Begin Current Issues Discussions
  
- Week 2:        First Current Issue Discussion.
  
- Week 3:        Second Current Issue Discussion.  
                  Paper topics approved.
  
- Week 4:        Third Current Issue Discussion.
  
- Week 5:        Fourth Current Issue Discussion.  
                  Professional Development Plan due.
  
- Week 6:        Fifth Current Issue Discussion.  
                  Experience Essay due.
  
- Week 7:        Mail Portfolio.  
                  Paper draft due.
  
- Week 8:        Optional Rehearsal.  
                  Friday, July 27, 2007  
                  Time and location TBA  
                  Paper Presentation. Paper due.

*Deadline for dropping the class without academic penalty is Friday, June 29.*

### **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.**