

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7355 Advanced Classification
Syllabus--Fall Semester 2011
Three Credit Hours

Instructor:

Harold E. Thiele, MLIS, PhD
MLIS Program, Odum Library, Valdosta State University
1500 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31698
Phone: 229.245.3725
Fax: 229.259.5055
Email: hethiele@valdosta.edu
Office hours by appointment, online or via telephone.

Course Description:

Advanced study of the subject classification of recordable knowledge. Verbal and numeric approaches, including Library of Congress and Dewey Decimal classification schemes, and the principles of thesaurus construction will be considered.

Course Prerequisite or Corequisite:

MLIS 7000 or consent of instructor.

Draft MLIS Program Objectives (PO)

(submitted to Graduate Executive Committee Fall 2011)

Graduates of the MLIS Program will:

- PO 1. Perform administrative, service, and technical functions of professional practice in libraries and information centers.
- PO 2. Use existing and emerging technologies to meet system, user, and other needs in libraries and information centers.
- PO 3. Integrate relevant research to enhance their work in libraries and information centers.
- PO 4. Demonstrate professionalism in their work in libraries and information centers.

Student Learning Outcomes (LO):

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

1. Classify library materials using Library of Congress verbal and numeric schemes. (PO 1, PO 2, PO 4)
2. Classify library materials using Dewey Decimal Classification. (PO 1, PO 2, PO 4)
3. Apply the principles of thesaurus construction and use. (PO 1, PO 2, PO 3, PO 4)
4. Identify and interpret relevant documentation and tools. (PO 1, PO 2, PO 3, PO 4)

Required Materials:

- Hunter, E. J. (2009). *Classification made simple: An introduction to knowledge organisation and information retrieval*. 3rd ed. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate. ISBN: 9780754675587.
- Roe, Sandra K., and Alan R. Thomas. 2004. *The thesaurus: review, renaissance, and revision*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press. ISBN-13: 978-0789019783 (hardcover), ISBN-

13: 978-0789019790 (paperback).

- Dittmann, H., Hardy, J., & Musgrave, L. (2007). *Learn Library of Congress classification. 2nd North American edition.* (Library Education Series). Friendswood, Tex: TotalRecall Publications, Inc. ISBN: 9781590958063.
- Mortimer, M. (2007). *Learn Dewey decimal classification (Edition 22): First North American edition.* (Library Education Series). Friendswood, TX: TotalRecall. ISBN: 9781590958049
- Additional materials posted in BlazeView or in Odum Library Electronic Reserve.

Recommended Materials:

- Chan, Lois Mai, and Theodora L. Hodges. *Cataloging and Classification: An Introduction.* 3rd ed. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2007. ISBN-13: 9780810859449. 2007 edition required.
- Ganendran, J., & Farkas, L. (2007). *Learn Library of Congress subject access. 2nd North American Edition.* (Library Education Series). Friendswood, Tex: TotalRecall Publications. ISBN: 9781590958094.
- Haynes, E., & Fountain, J. F. (2005). *Unlocking the Mysteries of Cataloging: A workbook of examples.* (Library & Information Science Series). Westport: Libraries unlimited. ISBN: 9781591580089.



A headset with attached microphone or other microphone and speakers that work with Live Classroom software. Noise-canceling properties are recommended.

Assignments:

Each assignment will have a due date, followed by a one-day grace period. If an assignment is submitted after the grace period has expired, I will grade it if I have time, but I reserve the right not to accept it. To assure yourself a chance to get at least some points for the assignment, turn it in before the grace period ends. See BlazeView for submission instructions and further details. The Assignment Calendar will be posed in BlazeView. Except as noted, assignments are due on the assigned date by 11:59 p.m. The professor reserves the right to modify, add, or remove assignments as conditions warrant.

Examinations:

There will be a Midterm Examination.

Grading Scale

The grading scale will be based on percentage of total available points. Course grades will be assigned based on the following percentage breakdown:

- A = 90-100 % = exceptional work, exceeds expected graduate level work
- B = 80-89 % = consistently good work, meets expected graduate level work
- C = 70-79 % = consistently poor work, fails to meet expected graduate level work
- D = 60-69 % = perfunctory, incomplete work, fails to meet expected graduate level work
- F = ≤ 60 % = missing, incomplete work, fails to meet expected graduate level work

Course grades lower than C will not be credited to a graduate degree (VSU 2008-2009 Graduate

Catalog, page 16).

You may drop the course without academic penalty on or before the official withdrawal date. As discussed on page 30 of the 2009/10 Graduate Catalog, "Students may appeal for an exception to the withdrawal deadline for cases of medical and hardship issues."

Attendance:

This is a Web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings. One or more assignments may include a required presentation within WIMBA. If required, the presentations will be scheduled in consultation with class members.

Technical Requirements:

All assignments must be submitted using computer programs that are compatible with VSU supported products. For word processed documents, MS Word is the preferred format. If you are using a lower version of WordPerfect or some other word processor, save your documents in Rich Text Format (rtf).

When reading instructions for your assignments, notice whether the instructions say to paste your response into a message box or to use a file attachment. Also notice whether the instructions say to choose Reply or to create a new message.

When the directions say to paste into a BlazeView message box, compose your response in your word processor first. This will help avoid the agony of being "timed out" and losing your work.

Grammar, punctuation, and spelling count. Use spell check. The APA Style rules as detailed in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th Edition, (APA manual) is the required style manual for all class work unless otherwise specified. Formatting and professional writing style counts. Use active voice in your writing.

Communication:

For questions regarding the course, please communicate with me through the BlazeView WebCT site for this course. If your question is personal, please use the BlazeView WebCT course mail feature. If you have a general question whose answer may be of interest to your classmates, please post it to the "Questions" topic on the discussion boards.

Academic Honesty:

"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." Please review VSU's full policy on student conduct and behavior at

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>. A summary statement on the policies can be found at

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicDishonesty.shtml>.

Unless an assignment is specifically designated as a group or collaborative activity, anything

submitted under your name should be solely your own work. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.

Distance Learning Support:

An online guide for distance education students is on the Odum Library Web site at http://www.valdosta.edu/library/services/revised_students.pdf.

Accommodations 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), their website is at <http://www.valdosta.edu/access/>.

Student Agreement:

Enrollment in this class signifies that the student has agreed 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 according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester.**