Syllabus

SLIS 4000/5000 Information and Knowledge Professions
Summer 2013 10W

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* Please use Blackboard for all course communication

Course Format

This is a blended course. Students attend Web Institute and complete the remainder of the course online. Eight learning modules are used to organize and deliver online course materials to students. Learning modules are available on course Blackboard Learn site.

Web Institute:

- Location: University of Texas El Paso -- University Library -- Room 204
- Date & Time: June 8-9, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Course Description and Objectives

Course Descriptions

SLIS 5000. Information and Knowledge Professions. 3 hours. History, roles and scope of the information and knowledge professions. Basic concepts and issues including impact of information technology on the individual, intellectual freedom, privacy and diversity. Legal and ethical aspects of managing information and knowledge organizations. Course activities emphasizing team building and leadership skills.

Course Goals and Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:
Develop basic understanding of the scope of the information professions

- a basic vocabulary for the professions
- information life cycle (see COA standard on curriculum)
- types of the information professions
- the economics of information including creative commons
- types of libraries and information agencies including their communities of users and sponsors
- certification and licensure requirements of specialized areas of the professions

Acquire knowledge of the history of information and library sciences

- important institutions
- seminal leaders – not just factual but their theories and philosophy
- the societal and philosophical contexts
- the history of human communication and its impact on libraries
- evolution of information technologies

Examine ethics, values, norms, and foundational principles of the LIS profession

- theoretical foundations
- national and international social, public, information, economic, and cultural policies and trends of significance to the LIS profession
- the roles and impacts of information policies, practices, and information itself on diverse populations, including under-served groups, in a rapidly changing technological and global information society
- the legal framework within which information agencies operate (privacy, freedom of expression, intellectual freedom, equal rights and intellectual property)
- the role of advocacy in the information professions

Investigate current and emerging issues in information and library sciences and their impact on information professions

Understand the role and attributes of an effective LIS professional

- Interpersonal behaviors and effective written and oral communication
- techniques used to analyze complex problems and create appropriate solutions (critical thinking)
- change (recognizing, evaluating, reacting to, understanding, and thriving in paradigmatic shifts)
- involvement in professional organizations, lifelong learning, and networking
- leadership (recognizing, evaluating, reacting to, understanding)
- marketing LIS Services
- choosing specializations
Exhibit knowledge of the impact of technology on individuals, society and the information profession

- various modes of storage and delivery
- net neutrality
- digital divide
- internet filtering and censorship
- privacy and security
- information overload
- impact in a multicultural, multilingual, and global society

Course Communication

SLIS 4000/5000 uses online communication tools in Blackboard Learn: discussions and course email.

Discussions

The Blackboard Learn Discussions are public forums analogous to bulletin boards or mailing lists. In this course, Discussions are divided into several areas to help organize your postings. Here is how to use each area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion Area</th>
<th>Type of Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General course discussion</td>
<td>Course announcements, general course questions, and other course topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduce yourself</td>
<td>An introductory message about yourself: Why you are? What is your program of study? Why are you interested in this profession?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 1-7 Discussions</td>
<td>Answers to discussion questions of Course Modules</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Email

Blackboard Learn email tool functions much like any other kind of email. One can send individual and group emails to the course members. Please use only course email for all course-related matters.

Course Requirements

Readings: There is no textbook, but there are required readings, which are listed in each module and provided in digital formats. You will have to obtain optional readings if they are not linked to the module file, plus additional readings for your assignments.
Citation Style Manual:


Assignments: Seven discussion postings, Term Project (includes Short Paper, Annotated Bibliography, and Term Paper) -- see description below.

Examinations: There are no examinations.

Readings

There is no textbook, but there are required readings, which are listed in each module. Most of the readings are available electronically within the Module Readings sections of the course website. You will have to obtain optional readings if they are not available electronically within the course content, plus additional readings and information sources for your assignments. These optional and additional readings can be retrieved online through the UNT Libraries (www.library.unt.edu) electronic resources/databases.

APA Style

It is important to provide details of all the sources of information that you have used to prepare your work. All written assignments should follow APA style to ensure that all sources are cited completely, correctly, and with consistency. The purpose of APA style is to 1) give credit to the author(s) whose ideas or research you have used, 2) provide the exact location for sources of information used in the text of your paper, and 3) enable the readers to verify information you have provided or to explore your topic further. Consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition.

Policies

ADA accommodation

If you have a disability and require accommodation under the terms of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you must present a written accommodation request to the instructor by the end of the *third week of the semester*. You should submit a request even if it is possible that accommodation may not be necessary later in the semester. You should register with the UNT Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA; http://www.unt.edu/oda/ or 940-565-4323), which provides many kinds of support services. Procedures are explained in the UNT Disability Accommodation Policy for Students and Academic Units (http://policy.unt.edu/policy/18-1-14).

Academic Integrity

The UNT Students Standards of Academic Integrity (2009) are available at the Provost office website: http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm. The Student Standards of Academic Integrity *UNT Policy Manual* (http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf) defines six categories of academic dishonesty: cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and sabotage. The category *plagiarism* defined as follows: “Use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to:
1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.

2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials."

(https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf)

The Department of Library and Information Sciences (LIS), formerly the School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS), University of North Texas has passed an “Academic Misconduct Policy” (http://www.lis.unt.edu/main/viewpage.php?cid=151) on April 15, 2005. The LIS Academic Misconduct Policy is compatible with the UNT Academic Integrity policy.

All LIS students are required to sign a form stating that they have read and understand the LIS Academic Integrity Policy. If you have not yet signed the form, contact the instructor.

Enrollment in any SLIS course is considered implicit acceptance of all LIS and UNT student policies. It is the responsibility of the student to understand and adhere to these policies. LIS has zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. LIS instructors may choose to submit any student work to Turnitin for verification of originality. Penalties for plagiarism in SLIS 5000 are as follows:

- First offense: Final course grade reduced by one complete grade
- Second offense: Final course grade reduced to F (Fail)

Course Grading

Grade distribution

Grades are determined on a 100-point scale with 10 points per grade (90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, etc.). The grade distribution determines how much each assignment grade counts toward the final grade for the course, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Discussions</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading criteria

Grades evaluate the quality of your work and adherence to the assignments. Note penalties below.
Content: All topics must relate to the course, either as assigned or approved by the instructor.

Deadlines: To facilitate timely grading, all assignments must be submitted/posted before 11:55 p.m. on the due date in Denton, TX time. Half a grade (5 points) is deducted for each day an assignment is late. An exception can be made if you absolutely cannot meet the deadline; please notify the instructor in advance if possible.

Completeness: Assignments are detailed. Avoid losing points for incompleteness or failure to follow instructions. If you do not understand the assignment, ask for help prior to the deadline.

Writing: Both substantive content and quality of writing are considered. Substantive content includes demonstrated knowledge of appropriate concepts, completeness, strong supporting material, and reasonable conclusions. Quality of writing covers organization and clarity of expression, appropriate use of references, and correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling. References must be in APA style. Up to half a grade (5 points) is deducted for inaccurate references.

Grade options

Extra credit: Assignments for extra credit will not be made under any circumstances. If you are having trouble with regular assignments, consult the instructor as soon as possible.

Incomplete: See UNT Graduate Catalog for policies and UNT semester schedule for deadlines. A grade of incomplete (I) will be given only for a justifiable reason and only if you are passing the course. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor to request an incomplete and discuss requirements for completing the course. If you do not remove the incomplete within one calendar year, you will receive a grade of F.

Withdrawal: See UNT Graduate Catalog for policies and UNT semester schedule for deadlines. A grade of withdraw (W) or withdraw-failing (WF) will be given depending on your participation and grades to date. If you simply disappear and do not file a formal UNT withdrawal form, you may receive a grade of F.

Course Assignments

Module Discussions

Module discussions provide the students with an opportunity to examine issues facing information and knowledge professions and reflect critically and creatively on course topics. Each module, except for Module 8, includes a discussion question provided by the instructors. The module discussion posts must be submitted in the corresponding discussion forum by 11:55 p.m. on the due date. Students must provide their answers (500-600 words) in the “Message” box of the discussion thread (Note: attachments will not be accepted). The discussion posts must be thoughtful, reflective, and supported by assigned readings, other readings, and/or relevant experience.

Term Project

This assignment consists of the Short Paper, Annotated Bibliography, and Final Term Paper. These three papers are interrelated and combined under one topic. The Project provides students with an opportunity to choose a topic, create a problem statement, select, retrieve, and evaluate information resources,
develop a concept, gain an in-depth understanding of an area related to the information and knowledge professions, present the findings in writing through discussion and conclusion.

**Topic and sources**

1. Identify an area of interest from those listed in the course outline.
2. Within the selected area of interest, choose a topic from the list of suggested topics (available in the course content in Blackboard).

The students have to make their topic choices by the deadline assigned in the Schedule of Activities and submit the topic individually, using the Blackboard **course email tool**, to the instructor for approval. Please **do not** post your topic suggestions in the Discussion areas of the course.

Only the topic approved by the instructor can be used for Short Paper, Annotated Bibliography, and Final Term Paper.

Students are responsible for finding and identifying sources of information to support the selected topic.

**Criteria for sources:**

- The resources to be used may not include required course readings, but you can use recommended readings.
- At least 10 (ten) sources relevant to the chosen topic should be used for the Annotated Bibliography and final paper. A minimum of 7 (seven) of your sources must be from print or electronic scholarly/peer-reviewed journals and/or books.

**Short Paper**

The short paper will form the basis for your abstract and introduction in the final term paper.

**Instructions**

1. Choose one or two topics from the list of topics provided in the course content.
2. Conduct preliminary literature searches to identify and obtain major sources and narrow your choice to one topic.
3. Send the topic by **Blackboard email** to Dr. Vassilieva for approval. You might include citations of sources you have located so far, along with any other details to clarify your focus.
4. Receive email with approval of your topic
5. Write a short paper (250-300 words)

**Your Short Paper (250-350 words) must include:**

1. Indication of the topic
2. Significance of the topic
3. Why you selected this topic
4. What is the problem/issue you would like to discuss
5. What you want to learn about the topic
6. References section including all sources referenced in the text, following APA style

Format

Word file named in this style: Lastname_ShortPaper (e.g. Thompson_ShortPaper)
Margins 1 inch on each side.
Standard body type (e.g., 11-point Calibri or 10-point Arial or 12-point Times New Roman).
Title and headings slightly larger than body type and boldface.

No cover page. At top right on page 1, type on separate lines: full name, course number, and date.
Below this, type title (name of topic, not assignment) in larger boldface type.

Beginning on page 2, insert running header at top right in this style: Lastname / p. 2.

Double-space body text (indent paragraphs; no extra line spaces between paragraphs).
Single-space reference list citations, with extra line space between each citation.

Check spelling!

Submission

Submit the MS Word file of your Short Paper as attachment in the course Short Paper Assignment Dropbox in Blackboard by 11:55 p.m. of the assigned due date.

Annotated Bibliography

Note: For requirements about the sources to be used in your Annotated Bibliography please see the Criteria for sources section of the syllabus (p. 6). The annotated bibliography will form the basis for term paper literature review and references.

Instructions

1. To search and obtain resources to be used in your annotated bibliography Identify appropriate databases available at the UNT Libraries website and search multiple databases.

2. In a library database, select Peer-Reviewed or Scholarly (may be under Advanced Search) to locate scholarly literature.

3. Search primarily for journal articles, not books (books tend to be less current). However, credible publications in any form or format (e.g., series of articles, theme issue of journal, book, book chapter, website) may be acceptable. Ask instructor if you are unsure.
4. Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en) usually retrieves citations to credible scholarly and professional articles and may yield full-text articles not available through library databases.

Your Annotated Bibliography must include:

1. Indication of the topic (same topic as for your Short Paper and Term Paper).

2. **Introduction:** a 200-250 word introduction explaining the choice of the resources and how they will contribute to the Term Paper.

3. **Annotations:** List your annotations alphabetically by author’s last name. For each of the 10 (ten) resources (including 7 peer-reviewed/scholarly resources) provide using the below headings:
   - **Citation:** Full citation in APA format.
   - **Resource type:** Scholarly/peer-reviewed OR Not peer-reviewed (i.e. professional or applied or practical or popular or trade)
   - **Contribution:** One sentence stating the resource’s single major contribution to the literature.
   - **Summary:** Write a 100-150 word summary of the resource in your own words (do not copy the published abstract). Summaries should be explanatory and descriptive. If the resource is very large, like a book, describe the parts that most interest you.
   - **Relevance:** A description of the relevance of the resources to your topic. Explain how or why it is useful. This may include an assessment of its relative importance, quality, and credibility compared to other sources.

**Format**

Word file named in this style: **Lastname_Bib** (e.g. Thompson_Bib)
Margins 1 inch on each side.
Standard body type (e.g., 11-point Calibri or 10-point Arial or 12-point Times New Roman).
Title and headings slightly larger than body type and boldface.

**No cover page.** At top right on page 1, type on separate lines: full name, course number, and date. Below this, type **title** (name of topic, not assignment) in larger boldface type.

Beginning on page 2, insert running header at top right in this style: Lastname / p. 2.

**Double-space** body text (indent paragraphs; no extra line spaces between paragraphs).
(Notice that in the Annotated Bibliography, citations are part of body text, so do **not include a separate reference list** in your Annotated Bibliographies)

**Check spelling!**

**Submission**

Submit the MS Word file of your Annotated Bibliography as attachment in the course Annotated Bibliography Assignment Dropbox in Blackboard by **11:55 p.m.** of the assigned due date.
Term Paper

Based on your Short Paper and Annotated Bibliography, write your Term Paper (3500-5000 words). Please organize your paper using the indicated below section headings and follow APA style for your in-text citations and references.

The Term Paper should have the following structure:

1. **Title** (indication of the topic)
2. **Your name**
3. **Abstract:** 150-200 words including a concise summary of the key points of your paper.
4. **Keywords:** 3-5 keywords reflecting the content of the paper.
5. **Introduction:** explain the scope of your topic to familiarize your audience with the focus of your paper and outline the problem(s). Clarify the objectives of the paper and expand on the importance of or need for this topic. If appropriate, provide major key terms and brief conceptual definitions.
6. **Literature Review:** review at least 10 sources (including 7 peer-reviewed/scholarly resources) to your topic. Include a critical evaluation of the sources, substantive findings as well as theoretical and methodological contributions. Summarize, compare and contrast major points of the reviewed resources. You may also address critical aspects such as purpose of article, authority of author, reputation of journal, and quality of writing. Synthesize your points, and provide an overall perspective on the topic.

   *Note:* For the Literature Review section you may use the same resources that you used in your Annotated Bibliography. You might also want to use additional resources from the course readings and other resources of your choice.

7. **Discussion:** provide a concise discussion of critical issues that reflect the current situation (state of the art) and future developments in this area including your personal assessment based on the literature review. Describe professional implications of the discussed issues and how they affect roles and responsibilities of information professionals? Include relevant information about professional competencies, professional education, career paths, the job market, etc.

8. **Conclusion:** provide a final perspective on your topic and lessons learned if any.
9. **References:** Include list of all sources referenced in text. **Check references for APA style,** accuracy, and matches, as follows:

   - Each source referenced in text (no matter how many times) appears once in reference list.
   - Every reference list citation is referenced at least once in text.
   - Authors (including multiple authors) and publication years match exactly (check spelling) in text references and reference list.

**Format**

Word file named in this style: **Lastname_TermPaper.**
Margins 1 inch on each side.
Standard body type (e.g., 11-point Calibri or 10-point Arial or 12-point Times New Roman). Title and headings slightly larger than body type and boldface.

**No cover page.** At top right on page 1, type on separate lines: full name, course number, and date. Below this, type **title** (name of topic, not assignment) in larger boldface type.

Beginning on page 2, insert running header at top right in this style: Lastname / p. 2.

**Double-space** body text (indent paragraphs; no extra line spaces between paragraphs). **Single-space** reference list citations, with extra line space between each citation.

**Submission**

Submit the MS Word file of your Term Paper as attachment in the course Term Paper Assignment Dropbox in Blackboard by **11:55 p.m.** of the assigned due date.

**Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to all faculty who contributed to the content of this shared resource. In particular special thanks to Dr. Suliman Hawamdeh, Dr. Phil Turner, Dr. Linda Schamber, Dr. Ana Cleveland, Dr. Shawne Miksa, Dr. Barbara Schultz-Jones, Dr. Jeonghyun (Annie) Kim, Dr. Jodi Philbrick, Dr. Guillermo Oyarce who contributed to the development of SLIS 5000.