

VSU MLIS Program
MLIS 7610 Syllabus
Information Policy
Summer 2009

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MLIS Program
Valdosta State University
Valdosta, GA 31698

Classes Begin June 10
Classes End July 29
Graduation Aug 1

July 3, July 4 observed

Office Hours

Because this is a Web-based course, I will post no formal office hours. I can be reached by phone during normal business hours, by wkoehler@valdosta.edu 24-7, and appointments can be made as needed. Phone 229 333 5966. I will make every attempt to respond within 48 hours of receipt of electronic communications.

Technical Requirements

Students must have access to the WWW and BlazeView (VSU courseware). In additions, **all students must have and use a VSU e-mail address**. We will address all communications through courseware or VSU e-mail addresses only.

Purpose

This course is designed to familiarize the student with US national information policy; this summer with an emphasis on intellectual property issues, in specific copyright. Its primary focus is on policies that are of primary importance to librarians and other information professionals.

Because US national intellectual property policy drives and is driven by international policies, the course will necessarily be focused there as well. To understand these processes, we will spend some time exploring the history of the development of intellectual property policy.

Objectives and Outcomes

In this course students will be exposed to information, information policy, information politics, information technology, and information economics at both the national and international levels. Successful students will be able to:

1. Identify substantive issue areas in information policy, such as intellectual property, access to and use of information, and media deregulation and regulation.
2. Understand policies related to the creation, collection, organization, storage, retrieval, repackaging, dissemination, utilization, archiving, management, and destruction of information
3. Appreciate who the major stakeholders are in intellectual property policy development and implementation. How do stakeholders interact and inter-relate?
4. Understand approaches to public policy – theory and practice – and draw on various disciplinary approaches to public policy analysis
5. Appreciate the history of intellectual property theory and its application today.
6. Speculate on the interplay between policy, technology, and economic interests on national and global scales.
7. Begin to develop skills to apply IP knowledge in the library and information management areas.

Required Readings

Lawrence Lessing, *Remix: Making Art and Commerce Thrive in the Hybrid Economy*. Penguin Press, 2008. ISBN 978-1-59420-172-1

June Lester and Wallace Koehler, *Fundamentals of Information Studies*, 2nd ed. Neal-Schuman, 2007. ISBN 978-1-55570-594-7

Carrie Russell, *Complete Copyright: An Everyday Guide for Librarians*. American Library Association, 2004. ISBN 0-8389-3543-5

Specific page numbers are provided in the course shell.

Assignments

Formal written assignments: three papers not to exceed ten (10) pages each, 12 pt, 1.5 space, 1 inch margins. Each paper will represent 25% of grade. All written assignments must have at least ten references (not including the assigned text).

On-line discussion each week is required. Discussion represents 25% of grade. A subject will be posted each week to the class list. Be sure to document discussion statements with citations to the literature (at least one reference). Suggestions for possible discussion issues are welcome.

Assignments and due dates are found in the class BlazeView site

Discussion Issues

Document your arguments from the literature. Post to the Appropriate Discussion folder. Respond to each other's postings.

The discussion issues are incorporated are found in the class BlazeView site

Grades

Individual assignment weights are provided above. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A – 91-100

B – 81-90

C – 71-80

D – 60-70

F – 0-69

University Policy

Please become aware of and be guided by these VSU policies.

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