

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE**  
**MLIS 7800 Capstone**  
**Syllabus--Spring Semester 2007**  
Three Credit Hours

**Instructor:**

Elaine Yontz, Ph. D.  
Odum Library—1500 N. Patterson Street  
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Office Hours by appointment, in person or online

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**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. "Dry run" of presentation and draft of final paper due at Class #3. Presentation and final paper are due at Class #4.

**Portfolio:** You will update, present and discuss your portfolio. Feedback will be provided by the instructor and classmates. Discussion and sharing of portfolios at Class #1; updated portfolios due at Class #4.

**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 Class #2.

**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 Class #3.

**Current Issues Discussions:** Due at Class #2. You will moderate class discussion on a current issue in LIS. These will be topics that have appeared in either the LIS or popular literature during the past year and ones on which people of good will have disagreed. Topics will be assigned at Class #1. You will identify pieces of published literature that state all sides of your issue and you will prepare two or three questions to guide the discussion.

### 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 Agendas

Date TBA  
10:00-5:00 p.m.

Class #1  
Macon State College

Introductions  
Confirm dates, times, and locations of Classes 2, 3, and 4  
Discuss Rubin text  
Strengths and challenges discussion  
Portfolio discussion  
Project consultations with instructor  
Assign Current Issues topics

*No later than Class #2: submit Professional Development Plan via WebCT Vista*

Date TBA  
Time TBA

Class #2  
Place TBA

Current Issues discussions

*No later than Class #3: submit Reflective Essay via WebCT Vista*

Date TBA  
Time TBA

Class #3  
Place TBA

“Dry run” of presentations  
Presentation and discussion of portfolios  
Draft of paper due

Friday, May 4  
Time TBA

Class #4  
Odum Library, Valdosta State University

Capstone presentations  
MLIS Graduation

*Deadline for dropping the class without academic penalty is Friday, March 2.*



## Congratulations, Graduates!

### **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 face-to-face class. In-class participation is integral to the course design. Therefore, it is expected that students will make consistent, contributive attendance a high priority. **If you are compelled to be absent, you must negotiate a mutually acceptable alternative with the instructor in order to make a passing grade.**