



James L. & Dorothy H. Dewar
COLLEGE of EDUCATION
& HUMAN SERVICES
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Library and Information Studies
MLIS 7220 Public Libraries
Spring 2024
Three Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Linda R. Most, Ph.D.
Telephone Number: 229-245-6534 – leave message
Email Address: lrmost@valdosta.edu
Office Hours: Phone or Chat by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the American public library and its place in contemporary Communities; Topics include standards, planning, evaluation, governance, funding, and advocacy.

Prerequisite or co-requisite: MLIS 7200 or consent of the instructor.

TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS

McCook, Kathleen de la Pena & Bossaller, Jenny S. (2018) *Introduction to Public Librarianship (3rd ed.)* Chicago: Neal-Schuman.
ISBN: 978-0-8389-1506-6 (pb). e-Pub (978-0-83891664-3) Kindle (978-0-8389-1666-7)

Relevant professional and scholarly journal articles will be assigned to accompany each textbook chapter and in weeks when no chapter is assigned. The reading list is provided on the course website.

Please familiarize yourself with the VSU policy that prohibits the use of the Interlibrary Loan service for obtaining textbooks at

<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/general/about/policies/ill/borrowing.php>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to meet these Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). The SLOs are aligned with MLS program objectives (<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/our-program/>):

- SLO 1. Recognize the history of public libraries in the U.S. (*ALA Core Competence 1, MLIS PO1*)
- SLO 2. Analyze the role of public libraries in contemporary U.S. society. (*ALA Core Competence 1,2 MLIS PO1*).
- SLO 3. Describe governance of U.S. public libraries including their missions, goals, and functions (*ALA Core Competence 1, MLIS PO1*).
- SLO 4. Analyze and discuss the development, marketing, delivery and management of public library services and programs (*ALA Core Competence 1,8, MLIS PO1,4*).

- SLO 5. Identify and describe user and community characteristics and priorities and their effects on public library systems and services (*ALA Core Competence 5,7, MLIS PO1*).
- SLO 6. Analyze and discuss methods of evaluating public library systems, services, and programs (*ALA Core Competence 2,4,8 MLIS PO2*).
- SLO 7. Analyze and discuss the uses and impacts of digital information technology in public libraries (*ALA Core Competence 4; MLIS PO2*).

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

Summary of Graded Course Activities:

The course calendar provides a summary of all course readings and activities for the semester. Details for each unit are posted in the appropriate folder on the course website. ***It is the student's responsibility to check the course calendar for DUE DATES for all class work, and the unit folders for all required and supplemental readings and other materials.*** Summary descriptions of all required course work are provided below. Full details can be found in the assignments section of the course website.

Weekly Discussion Board Postings Total Points Possible: 30 (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Week 1: Required - Please post your Introduction by midnight on Sunday of Week 1

Weeks 2-15: Six (6) Interactive topics; 5 points each; full details in the *Assignments* document.

Two Public Library Reports Total Points Possible: 50 (SLO 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)

Summary: Identify a public library near your home or workplace. If you already work in a public library, you may use your workplace library and library system for this assignment. You may (and should) use this library as a resource for completing most of the assignments in this course and as a resource for your responses to the weekly discussion board topics when appropriate. There are two reports required which will be submitted individually by the dates indicated on the course calendar. Complete instructions are provided in the assignments section of the course website.

Report 1 – Library profile and challenges: 25 points

Report 2 – Library Services and Programming: 25 points

Literature Review 20 points (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Public libraries are rapidly changing institutions and public librarianship is a rapidly changing field of practice. Identify a relevant topic of interest or concern to you and relate your findings it in a 5-7 page paper.

This is not an opinion paper; you will explore the professional and research literature on your topic and present the perspectives as you find them. This paper should be double-spaced and must follow APA in-text format. Complete instructions are provided in the *Assignments* section of the course website.

Submitting written assignments

All written work must be submitted as attachments to the assignment modules in the BlazeView course website using Word formats (.doc or .docx suffixes only). All written work file names should begin with your last name and first initial and include the assignment name as the file name, for example: SmithJ_litreview.docx. The university's Information Technology department provides step-by-step

guides on how to use VSU's e-mail system and other resources. The IT Solutions Center is found at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/service-desk/> The telephone hotline is 229-245-4357.

LATE SUBMISSIONS, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, & MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS

All course work is due inside BlazeView on the date and time indicated on the course calendar. Any exceptions without penalties must be negotiated in advance. If you need additional time on an assignment or if you have a scheduling conflict you must contact your instructor BEFORE the assignment is due to discuss your situation. Technological crises are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeView is down at the time the work is due. ***There is no grace period for any assignment.*** After 24 hours 20% of the possible assignment grade will be deducted from the student's score and will continue for every additional 24 hours or increment thereof that the work is late.

MLIS PROGRAM E-PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT

An E-Portfolio is required for graduation by all students. Details may be found on the department website. Assignments from this course that you might consider including in your portfolio include your library profile reports and/or your literature review.

COURSE GRADES

Students in this course are expected to: 1) Read or view all assigned materials; 2) Participate in class activities; 3) Submit all projects on time and according to the format designated by the instructor; 4) Conduct all research and composition according to the VSU Academic Honesty Policy. See the COEHS *Policy on Plagiarism* <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php> and the *MLIS Guide to Ethical Conduct* at <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/GuidetoEthicalConductWebversion.pdf>).

Students can earn a maximum of 100 points in this course as indicated above. Course grades will be awarded as follows:

- A: 90%–100%
- B: 80%–89%
- C: 70%–79%
- D: 60%–69%
- F: Lower than 60%

No grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree and students must receive a grade of B or better to earn credit in core courses and the required collection development elective.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

VSU requires that you attend class in the first week. [Insert first week attendance requirement for this course.] All course activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW (and/or other platform(s) as may be designated by the instructor). Course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is your responsibility to participate in all course activities and submit assignments on time. It is in your best interest to log into the course at least several times each week (daily is best) to check announcements, discussion board posts, and emails.

COMMUNICATION

Communication will be conducted through BlazeVIEW email, postings and replies in the discussion board, and/or BlazeVIEW announcements. Check these areas at least several times per week (daily is recommended) as you are responsible for knowing all information communicated through these channels.

VSU requires that all correspondence between the student and the instructor be conducted through official university channels. To that end, all email correspondence related to this course is to be sent using the email client built into the BlazeVIEW course website. For other correspondence with any VSU faculty members or administrative offices, please use your VSU email account.

PROFESSIONALISM

The Department of Library and Information Studies expects you to pursue your academic endeavors and conduct yourself in a professional and ethical manner. All work submitted in the course must represent your own efforts. Cite sources and include reference information. You should communicate in a professional manner in both speech and writing and maintain a professional attitude, being respectful to others and their viewpoints. Exercise an awareness of the pervasiveness of the online environment and strive to maintain a professional online presence.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/student-handbook.php>) and the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism (<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php>). All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics. Consequences for acts of academic dishonesty are detailed in the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism.

VSU's Academic Student Conduct Code states that "no student shall engage in plagiarism, which is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were the student's own." **Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper citation is another form of plagiarism.** If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me as soon as possible.

For more information, visit Academic Honesty at VSU (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsuh.php>).

STUDENT OPINION OF INSTRUCTION SURVEY

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available through SmartEvals. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have

submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the SOI Procedures webpage (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/>).

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND TITLE IX STATEMENT

Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Mr. Darius Thomas. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Christina Kidd, Student Conduct Coordinator at chkidd@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

Helpful Links

Technical Support (IT helpdesk)	https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/
Center for eLearning (support for BlazeVIEW)	https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/
Academic Support Center	https://www.valdosta.edu/asc/
Hope Connect (Mental Health Services)	https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/hope-connect-about.php