

The University of Western Ontario  
Faculty of Information and Media Studies

**LIS 9001-001/-002: Perspectives on Library and Information Science**

**Graduate Course Outline  
Fall Term 2017**

**1. Course Information**

**Time & Place:** **9001-001:** Tuesdays, 1:30 – 4:20 pm – FNB 2230; **9001-002:**  
Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:50 am - FNB 3220  
**Office Hours:** FNB 4079 – Mondays, 3 – 4:30 pm or by appointment  
**Telephone:** (519) 661-2111 x 85616  
**Email:** [apyati@uwo.ca](mailto:apyati@uwo.ca)

**2. Instructor Information**

Dr. Ajit Pyati  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS)  
FIMS website: [http://www.fims.uwo.ca/people/profiles/ajit\\_pyati.html](http://www.fims.uwo.ca/people/profiles/ajit_pyati.html)

**3. Course Description**

This course is an overview of issues, perspectives and concerns of importance to information professionals and the discipline of library and information science. It provides an introduction to different information environments and considers the social, political, economic, cultural, historical, and intellectual contexts of information.

*Relationship to the Goals and Objectives of the MLIS Program (Learning Outcomes)*

Upon successful completion of readings, assignments, and class participation, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate an awareness of professional values and standards (Goal 2, Obj. 1a);
2. respond to change in a spirit of intellectual inquiry (Goal 2, Obj. 1b);
3. analyze major problems of the discipline and profession in a spirit of creativity and critical inquiry (Goal 2, Obj. 1e);
4. understand the nature of particular user groups, and the collections, services, and facilities required to meet these needs (Goal 2, Obj. 1h).

**4. Course Materials**

*Course Topics and Readings*

Please note that all the course readings are available on the course website. It is the responsibility of students to make their own copies of readings. Required readings are indicated by an asterisk (\*); as such, you must have done at least this minimum amount of reading before the class. Secondary readings are highly recommended and deepen the knowledge of the topics presented. These secondary readings will be highly useful (and in fact necessary) as you prepare to write the topic reports. Details about the readings will be on the final course syllabus, which students will receive on the first day of class.

Topics covered in this class include (but are not limited to):

Professionalism within LIS; Understanding the development of “information” and the “information society”; The economics of information; Public sphere theory; Professional values and information ethics; Copyright; Surveillance; Information privacy; Information equity and social justice; Mindful Librarianship; Future of the information professions; etc.

## 5. Methods of Evaluation

### *MLIS Grade Guidelines and Late Assignments*

The MLIS Student Handbook contains criteria used to grade assignments:

[http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P251\\_25303](http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P251_25303). Late assignments will be penalized at 5% per day, unless appropriate documentation was provided. Late assignments should be left in the FIMS drop box next to the main office. Assignments that are more than five days late will not be accepted.

### *Course Requirements*

To complete this course you must attend all classes, read the required readings, and do the following assignments:

1. Short Paper	15%
2. Topic Report #1	25%
3. Topic Report #2	25%
4. Team Presentation	25%
5. Participation	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Assignments and grading*

#### Short Paper – 15% (due for *everyone* on **September 19/20**)

The first written assignment will be a short paper (in the range of 3 double spaced pages) due at the beginning of class on September 19/20. The details of this assignment will be presented on the first day of class.

#### Topic Reports – 50% (25%; 25%)

You are required to submit **two** topic reports over the course of the term. Students have some flexibility with regard to which date they can turn their report in, based on which topic they choose to write on. The due dates are as follows: Topic Report #1 (**October 10/11 or 17/18**);

Topic Report #2 (**October 31/November 1 or November 7/8 or November 14/15**). More details about topic reports will be given in a separate document.

#### Team Presentation - 25%

Each student will be assigned to a group and the group will be given a topic for presentation. Groups and topics will be assigned early in the term to allow for sufficient preparation. More details about presentations will be provided in a separate document.

#### Class Participation – 10%

Class will be conducted as a forum for discussion. Students are expected to have read the assigned material and come to class prepared to discuss, critique, and synthesize these readings. Discussions will involve clarifying or defending points of view, commenting on and/or critiquing the literature, analyzing perspectives brought up in the literature and by classmates, and identifying what is missing from the debate. Factors to be considered in class participation include, but are not limited to: positive presence (attentive, participatory, and engaged), preparation, attitude, group interaction, and contributions (i.e. active participation, bringing outside sources into class for possible discussion and analysis, etc.). Guidelines for participation grades can also be found in the MLIS handbook.

In addition, students may periodically participate in class-related discussions by creating discussion board topics and posts through the “Links, Musings, and Discussions” link on the course website. This is an opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way outside of the specified class time. I will periodically read these posts – substantive and thoughtful contributions can positively contribute to a student’s overall participation grade.

### **6. Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

### **7. Support Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.