

*LIS 9319 Science, Technology, and Medical Information*  
Graduate Program of Library and Information Science  
Faculty of Information and Media Studies  
Western University  
Summer 2018

Instructor: Stephen Coulstring  
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Telephone: 519 675 5415 (Daytime Monday to Friday)  
Office hour: TBA  
Class meets: Wednesdays 6:00 to 8:50 p.m.

### **Course Description**

This course surveys the nature, presence, and communication of science, technology, and medical information. Students will gain an awareness of the information needs belonging to communities of practice in select disciplines. As well, students will consider the roles of information professionals in supporting students, researchers, and other participants in science, technology, and medicine.

PREREQUISITES: LIS 9003

### **Course Objectives**

1. To investigate the information requirements of practitioners in science, technology, and medicine.
2. To develop the skills and knowledge to provide library and information services to users of science, technology, and medical information.
3. To develop familiarity with information formats, conventions, sources, methodologies, and issues attached to user communities.
4. To demonstrate an awareness of professional values and standards.
5. To draw valid conclusions based upon sound analysis of reliable data.

### **Pedagogical Approaches**

Pedagogical approaches for course instruction include lectures, guest lectures, database trial, and labs. Assigned readings will be drawn from academic, technical, and conference publications.

### **Instructor Information**

Stephen Coulstring (BSc, BA, BEd, MA, MLIS) is a lecturer with the Faculty of Information and Media Studies. He has over twenty years experience with reference service, bibliographic instruction, collection management, and quality assurance in a special government library context—Canada Revenue Agency. His research experience and interests include business, law, science, and public records. He has taught the following LIS courses: LIS 9323 Business and Industry Information; LIS 9318

Legal Information; LIS 9316 Government Information; LIS 9319 Science, Technology, and Medical Information

### Course policies

*Writing* - Professional, grammatically correct writing is expected. This means that spelling, punctuation, and grammar are part of assignment evaluation. If you need assistance with writing, find someone whose writing skills you trust to proofread your written work or visit the Writing Support Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>.

*Plagiarism* - Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy Section 10 in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Academic Calendar at <http://grad.uwo.ca/calendar.htm>).

*Attendance* – Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Please see the section on attendance in the MLIS Graduate Handbook. Allowances will be made for attendance at professional conferences and job interviews only if you are in good standing in the course AND if you consult with me in advance of your absence.

*Communication* – The instructor plans to respond within 24 hours to all relevant course email that is sent to [scoulstr@uwo.ca](mailto:scoulstr@uwo.ca)

*Formatting* – Assignments should have single-spaced lines. Assignments have due dates and instructions posted to the course site on OWL. Assignments are due unless other arrangements apply.

*Grading* – Grading will conform to the guidelines published in the MLIS Graduate Student Handbook ([http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P269\\_25111](http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P269_25111)).

### Assignments

To complete this course you must attend classes and submit the following assignments:

Assignment Name	Weight
Definitions	15%
Business Case	30%
Topic Report	35%
Topic Report Presentation*	20%

\* Presentation is drawn from the topic report; the individual student shares findings with the class.

### Academic Integrity

The foundation of academic life includes respect for the ideas of others and an acknowledgement of their rights to those ideas. All who participate in the academic community should take the utmost care to appropriately handle, and, where necessary, cite the ideas of other thinkers and authors. Students must write essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from a text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. All

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)

### **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.