

**LIS 9610 Public Libraries**  
Graduate Program of Library and Information Science  
The University of Western Ontario  
Summer 2018

Instructor: Dr. Heather Hill  
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Class meets: Wednesdays, 1:30-4:20

**Course Description**

The organization of public libraries, the role of library boards in their management, and the effect of organizational structure on their services. Exploration of community structure, dynamics, and attitudes towards the public library and its potential to serve the whole community, including special client groups. The roles performed by public librarians and libraries in meeting the needs of their communities framed through a Community-Led Librarianship lens. Current political and cultural issues affecting the institution.

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

- Demonstrate awareness of, and analyze, current issues, trends, challenges, and opportunities in public libraries (PLLO 1, 2, 5)
- Analyze a given community in order to develop public library services (PLLO 2, 3, 5)
- Reflectively develop their own professional development for public library service (PLLO 1, 5, 7)

**Course policies**

*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.

*Writing* - While our discussions will vary in their formality, professional, grammatically correct writing is expected. This means that, spelling, punctuation, and grammar count. If this is a problem, find someone whose writing skills you trust to proofread your written work, or visit the Writing Support Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/> for assistance.

*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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)  
“Students who cheat and are not caught will be haunted by the memory of their misdeed for the rest of their miserable lives” (Academic Obscura, 2017).

### **Texts**

There is no specific required text for this course. Readings listed below, consist of web pages, blog posts, journal articles and book chapters. All readings are available through Western Libraries, the GRC or the open web.

### **Assignments**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Grade %</b>	<b>Approx due date</b>
Participation	10%	
De-escalation presentation draft	2%	Week8
De-escalation presentation and paper	13%	Week11
Library space analysis	5%	Week4
Library community analysis	5%	Week7
Library collection, resources, & services analysis	5%	Week9
Final library analysis	60%	Week13