

LIS 9610 PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Graduate Program of Library and Information Science
Western University
Winter 2018

LIS 9610 – Public Libraries

Class: 6:30-9:20 pm, Wednesdays, January 10 – April 11, 2018, FNB 3220

Instructor: Julie Brandl, jbrandl@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Before or after class, or by appointment. Questions/concerns by email are encouraged.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the roles performed by public libraries in meeting the needs of the community. It will examine the history and development of public libraries, as well as current issues. Through discussion, readings, lectures and assignments, this course will explore current and future challenges that impact public libraries in North America.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Develop public service oriented attitudes (PLLO 3, 5);
2. Critically evaluate community structures and dynamics in order to determine the library's role in the community and to analyze its response to changing community needs (PLLO 1, 2, 4, 5, 8);
3. Design or recommend public library services which meet the needs of the whole community, as well as specific client groups (PLLO 5, 8, 9);
4. Understand the organization of public libraries, the role of library boards in their management and the effect of organizational structure on service (PLLO 7).

COURSE MATERIALS

All required readings are available in the GRC, Western Libraries, or on the open web.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Evaluation will be based on the following assignments and activities:

Assignment	Grade %	Due date
Participation – in class participation, reflection writing	15%	
Written paper on topic of your choice – plan/outline	10%	January 31
Written paper	20%	February 28
Library observation and analysis	30%	April 4
Group presentation – services and resources for specific audiences	20%	Variable – sign up for due date
Maker/discovery activity demonstration	5%	Variable – sign up for due date

Attendance at, and timely arrival to, all classes is required, in accordance with FIMS policy for MLIS students.

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://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/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.