

The University of Western Ontario  
Faculty of Information and Media Studies

**LIS 9001: Perspectives on Library and Information Science**  
**Course Syllabus Fall Term 2019**

**Instructor:** Dr. Louis D'Alton

**Time & Place:** Thursdays, 1:30 – 4:20 pm – FNB 3320

**Office Hours:** TBA

**Telephone:** (519) 661-3019

**Email:** [ljdalton@uwo.ca](mailto:ljdalton@uwo.ca)

**Course website:** On OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>

**TA:** TBA @uwo.ca

**TA Office Hours:** TBA

**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 a critical awareness of professional values, ethics and standards (program level learning outcomes, 3)
2. Critically analyze and synthesize key themes and ideas in foundational texts of the field (program level learning outcomes, 2, 9, 5)
3. Construct coherent arguments in a written form about major current information issues and how they impact the professions (program level learning outcomes, 1, 9)
4. Demonstrate a deep understanding through discussion of the various contextual factors that affect the information professions and the field of library and information science (LIS) (program level learning outcomes, 5, 9)

**Attendance**

As there are generally no formal written examinations in the MLIS program, attendance at and participation in classes is an essential part of the learning experience and provides part of the basis for academic assessment of a student's knowledge. Students should therefore notify the instructor if they need to be absent from class due to inclement weather, conference attendance, serious illness, family emergencies or co-op or other job interviews. If the situation involves more than one absence, particularly in more than one course, the student should contact FIMS Graduate Student Services at 519-661-2111 Ext. 88494 or e-mail [bborman@uwo.ca](mailto:bborman@uwo.ca).

Attendance requirements also include punctual arrival at classes. Late arrivals are discourteous, disruptive and unprofessional.

Missing a class, or repeated late arrivals of 10 minutes or more, may require the student to complete a special assignment to verify coverage of the course material.

### **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)

### **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. Assignments that are more than five days late will not be accepted.

### **Support Services**

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

### **Course Requirements**

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

1. Reflection Paper 10%
2. Essay #1 25%
3. Essay #2 25%
4. Team Presentation 30%
5. Participation 10%

**Total 100%**

### **Assignments and Grading**

Reflection Paper – 10% (due **Sept 12**)

The first written assignment will be a reflection paper (in the range of 3-4 double spaced pages) due on **Sept 12**. This paper must be uploaded in MS Word format electronically onto the course website no later than 11:55 pm of this day. The details of this assignment will be presented on the first day of class.

Essays – 50% (25%; 25%)

You are required to submit **two** essays over the course of the term. Each essay must be uploaded in MS Word format electronically onto the course website no later than 11:55 pm of the appropriate date. More details about the essays will be given in a separate document.

### Team Presentation - 30%

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 analyze 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.

### Technology Use Policy

As a courtesy to the instructor and to your fellow classmates, please limit the use of electronic devices (laptops, tablets, mobile phones) for purposes that only support the intellectual climate of the classroom. In other words, kindly do not use these devices for excessive email checking, social media use, etc. In an age of distraction and information overload, the university classroom can still play a role as a special space for meaningful inquiry, communication, and engagement. Limiting non-essential uses of Internet-enabled devices in the classroom can play a large role in helping to foster this potential.

### Course Topics and Readings

Please note that all the course readings are available on the course website under the “Resources” folder. It is the responsibility of students to print out their own copies of readings. *Please come to class having read the required readings.* Some weeks have optional readings – these particular readings can further understanding of the topics for each week. While these readings are optional, they will quite often be *highly useful and/or necessary* when working on the essay assignments.