

Faculty of Information and Media Studies
GRADLIS 9001 – Perspectives on Library and Information Science
Fall 2020

Course Information

Time: Asynchronous. New weekly course material added on Tuesday mornings.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Roger Chabot, MLIS, PhD

Email: rchabot2@uwo.ca

Office Hours (Questions/Concerns): By appointment over Zoom

Discussion Drop-In Hours: Thursdays, 3-4pm (LINK)

Teaching Assistant:

Email:

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the philosophy and theory which underpins the profession of librarianship and the academic discipline of Library and Information Science (LIS). The course will introduce the principles and values of librarianship and LIS while also taking a critical approach to the social, political, economic, cultural, historical, and intellectual contexts of information, information professions, and libraries.

Course Objectives

Relationship to MLIS Program-Level Learning Outcomes

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

1. Value and support critical engagement with issues and practices in LIS and related fields through diverse approaches to independent ongoing learning. (Outcome 1)
2. Explain, analyse and interpret professional and scholarly literature, research data and information resources to articulate their implications for LIS and related fields of knowledge and practice. (Outcome 2)
3. Exercise and enact the values and principles of the field and its specialisations with an awareness of overarching social responsibility associated with progressive public service for the public good. (Outcome 3)

4. Relate the practices and roles of individual librarians and information professionals to broader organizational, professional, political, economic, social and technological contexts. (Outcome 5)

Course Requirements

To complete this course, you must:

1. Listen to the assigned audio-visual modules each week.
2. Complete the assigned readings each week.
3. Complete 10 reading responses.
 - a. Weight: 10 @ 3% each = 30%
 - b. Due in 10 of 14 weeks
4. Complete 3 essays.
 - a. Weight: 2 @ 20%, 1 @ 30%
 - b. Due: Week 4, Week 9, Week 14

Course Materials

The great majority of readings are available through the Western Libraries catalogue (<http://lib.uwo.ca>) and the internet. Assigned book chapters have been scanned and uploaded to the Resources section of the course OWL site.

Course Policies

Attendance: There are no in-class portions to this course. However, it is advised that the assigned lectures, readings, and assignments for the course are completed in the week that they are assigned or are due. In addition, I will be offering a weekly *voluntary* drop-in discussion session for an hour over Zoom on Thursday afternoons from 3-4pm for those that may wish to informally discuss the course materials with the instructor and socialize with classmates. Please be aware that the OWL course management software allows me to see who in the class has been or hasn't been accessing the course materials on a regular basis. You should plan for this course to occupy approximately 3-5 hours of your time each week.

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/universec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. The University's plagiarism policy requires instructors to remind students that, "Students must write their assignments and essays in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage of text

from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by using quotation marks when quoting directly from another work and by proper referencing such as footnotes or in-text citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offences Policy in the Western Academic Calendar)". See the MLIS student handbook for more details.

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.

Communication: I check my email regularly throughout the day and will usually respond within a 24-hour period. Please put "9001" somewhere in the subject line so that I can effectively triage my inbox. Responses may be slower on weekends. Please plan your work ahead, as I may be unable to respond to questions about assignments immediately before deadlines. Questions that may take some time to answer are best addressed "face-to-face" by making an appointment to meet with me via teleconference.

Late Assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day, or part thereof, unless permission is requested in advance of the due date or appropriate documentation is provided. Assignments (papers or reading responses) will be considered late after 11:55pm on the Monday evening before the next week of the course begins.

Potentially Re-Traumatizing Subjects: Some of the topics, lectures, readings, or other audio-visual materials for this course may deal with difficult subjects such as genocide, gender violence, racism, and other inappropriate uses of power. I have done my best to provide an exhaustive list of topics and readings for students to investigate beforehand. If the student has a previous, or continuing, history of emotional trauma and think some subjects may be difficult for them, please prepare ahead to address these concerns. Please come speak to me or Brandi Borman if you have any concerns about your mental health in regard to course content and I will do my best to accommodate. And of course, please consult the appropriate resources if you require ongoing medical accommodations or support.