

Faculty of Information and Media Studies

GRADLIS 9001 – Perspectives on Library and Information Science
Fall Term 2020

Course Information

Time: Asynchronous
Drop-In Discussion Session TBD

Instructor Information

Instructor: Martin Nord, MLIS
LIS PhD Candidate, FIMS
Email: mnord@uwo.ca
Office Hours: TBD, By Appointment

Teaching Assistant:
Email:

Course Description

This course is an overview of issues, perspectives and concerns of importance to information professionals and the academic discipline of Library and Information Science (LIS). It provides an introduction to different information environments and considers 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. Demonstrate a critical awareness of professional values, ethics and standards (programme level learning outcomes, 3)
2. Critically analyze and synthesize key themes and ideas in foundational texts of the field (programme 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 (programme 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) (programme level learning outcomes, 5, 9)

Course Requirements

To complete this course, you must watch the assigned mini-lecture recordings each week, complete the assigned readings, and do the following assignments.

Assignment	Value	Due
Reading Summaries	40% (10 summaries at 4% each)	Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12
Reading Annotation	10%	October 22 or December 8*
“Translation” Exercise	10%	October 22 or December 8*
Paper	35% Total	
Paper Consultation	5%	By appointment: September 21 – October 9
Annotated Bibliography	5%	By October 15
Paper Draft Peer Review	5%	Week 10
Final Paper	20%	December 11
Participation Self-Assessment	5%	December 14

*By each of these dates, students will turn in one of these two assignments.

Other activities, including reflection and participation in the discussion drop-in hour, are encouraged but not assessed (except as you deem appropriate in your participation self-assessment).

Course Materials

All the course readings are available on the course website under the “Resources” folder. Many of these readings are also available through the Western Libraries catalogue (<http://lib.uwo.ca>) or the internet.

Course Policies

Attendance:

There are no required synchronous meetings for this course. However, I advise you to complete the course requirements in a timely manner. Mini-lectures, readings, and assignments with set due dates should be completed in their scheduled weeks. Assignments with flexible due dates should not be left to the last minute but instead given good attention.

In addition, two ongoing activities are encouraged but not required: reflection and drop-in discussion sessions. In planning your weekly time commitment, try to set aside 30 minutes to take a break from active course-related thinking and work and reflect in an informal way on the course. At the beginning of the semester, I will provide some suggestions for ways to approach this time. I will also offer a weekly *voluntary* drop-in discussion session for one hour over Zoom. I will announce the scheduled time at the beginning of the semester. This is an opportunity to informally discuss the course content with the instructor and your fellow students and socialize.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will be subject to a mark penalty of 5% per day unless permission is requested in advance of the due date or appropriate documentation is provided.

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.

Scholarship and learning depend on the open and honest dialogue of ideas within the academic community. Every scholar—researcher, instructor, and student—is a member of this community. As such, each person is responsible to the others in the community and must understand, accept, and comply with its standards. Cheating and plagiarism do not respect other members of your community or yourself and will not be tolerated. See the University’s plagiarism policy and 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 Policy:

Email is an official means for you to contact me. As such, all email correspondence should come from your official university email address or via the course website. Likewise, it is important that you check your university email on a regular basis to ensure that you receive important class announcements. Please note most emails will be answered within 48 hours of receipt (expect longer on a weekend). Please put “9001” somewhere in the subject line so that I can quickly identify and reply to your email. Questions that may take some time to answer are best addressed by scheduling a one-on-one meeting.