

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: Dr. Davin Helkenberg

Email: dhelkenb@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By appointment over Zoom on Mondays

Optional Discussion Drop-In Hours: Mondays at 3PM EST on Zoom Meeting ID: 960 0303 0379

I check my e-mail regularly and will respond within 24 hours unless otherwise specified. I may not respond on weekends, except when assignments are due. Please keep in mind that I am located in the PST time zone, 3 hours behind local London time.

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. Complete the class modules each week.
2. Complete the assigned readings each week.
3. Complete 10 reading responses.
 - a. Weight: 10 @ 2.5% each = 25%
 - b. Due in 10 of 14 weeks
4. Complete 3 essays.
 - a. Weight: 3 @ 25%
 - 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>), the internet, or through the course OWL site. 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, assigned lectures, readings, and assignments for the course are expected to be completed in the week that they are assigned or are due. 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 *a minimum* of 10 hours of your time each week, including readings, modules, and assignments.

In addition, I will be offering a weekly *voluntary* drop-in discussion session for an hour over Zoom on Monday afternoons from 3-4PM EST for those that may wish to informally discuss the course materials with the instructor and socialize with classmates.

On Grading: Grading for this course conforms to the guidelines published by FIMS in the MLIS Handbook. Note please that *assignments in the 80% plus range contain fresh originality, unusually clear understanding of course topics, exceptional writing practices, and overall is of high professional quality*. Please consult the [MLIS Handbook section on Guidelines to the Grade](#)

[Range](#) for more information. For concerns with a grade on an individual assignment, please see the Teaching Assistant first.

Late Assignments: Late papers will receive a 5% penalty per day including weekends unless there are legitimate grounds for an extension based on compassionate or medical reasons only. This is non-negotiable. Assignments (papers or reading responses) will be considered late after 11:55pm Mondays. For an ongoing or acute need for accommodations, please contact Brandi Borman at Graduate Student Services.

Statement on Academic Offences: 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 website:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

See also the section on [Academic Offences in the MLIS Student Handbook](#).

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.

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 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.