

The University of Western Ontario
Faculty of Information and Media Studies

LIS 9001: Perspectives on Library and Information Science

**Graduate Course Outline
Winter Term 2020**

1. Course Information

Time & Place: Fridays, 1:30 – 4:20 pm; FNB 2230
Office Hours: FNB 4079, TBD
Telephone: (519) 661-2111 x 85616
Email: apyati@uwo.ca

2. Instructor Information

Dr. Ajit Pyati
Associate Professor
Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS)
FIMS website: http://www.fims.uwo.ca/people/profiles/ajit_pyati.html

3. 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 an awareness of professional values and standards (Goal 2, Obj. 1a);
2. respond to change in a spirit of intellectual inquiry (Goal 2, Obj. 1b);
3. analyze major problems of the discipline and profession in a spirit of creativity and critical inquiry (Goal 2, Obj. 1e);
4. understand the nature of particular user groups, and the collections, services, and facilities required to meet these needs (Goal 2, Obj. 1h).

4. Course Materials

Course Topics and Readings

Please note that all the course readings are available on the course website. It is the responsibility of students to make their own copies of readings. Details about the readings will

be on the final course syllabus, which students will receive on the first day of class (10 January 2020).

Topics covered in this class include (but are not limited to):

Professionalism within LIS; Understanding the development of “information” and the “information society”; The economics of information; Public sphere theory; Professional values and information ethics; Copyright; Surveillance; Information privacy; Information equity and social justice; etc.

5. Methods of Evaluation

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. 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.

Course Requirements

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

1. Short Paper	10%
2. Essay #1	25%
3. Essay #2	25%
4. Team Presentation	25%
5. Participation	15%
Total	100%

Assignments and grading

Short Paper – 10% (due for *everyone* on **January 17**)

The first written assignment will be a short paper (in the range of 3 double spaced pages) due on January 17. 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 paper must be uploaded in MS Word format electronically onto the course website no later than 11:55 pm of the appropriate date. Students have some flexibility with regard to which date they can turn their report in, based on which topic they choose to write on.

Team Presentation - 25%

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 – 15%

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.

Discussion Questions

As part of the participation mark, students are encouraged to submit discussion questions each week based on the readings for class. As the instructor, I may use some of these questions in class and/or students themselves may raise them as appropriate. These questions are not mandatory, but can be a nice way to participate offline and also raise one's participation grade (particularly if you feel shy or less inclined to speak during certain class sessions).

Further Discussion

In addition, you are encouraged to periodically participate in class-related discussions by creating conversations and posts through the "Further Discussion" topic link on the course website (under "Forums" on the left navigation bar). This is another opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way outside of the specified class time. I will periodically read these posts – substantive and thoughtful contributions can positively contribute to a student's overall participation grade.

6. 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/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

7. 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.