FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND MEDIA STUDIES
University of Western Ontario

LIS 9201:
Classification and Indexing

G. Campbell
Fall 2020
Section 001

Land Acknowledgement

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In this region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).

This Land Acknowledgement is important for LIS 9201 for the following reasons:

- It reminds us that librarianship and scholarship do not take place in a vacuum; we are striving to do our best work within a complex, diverse, and sometimes contentious collection of social contexts and historical narratives;

- It reminds us that what seems right from one perspective can seem deeply wrong from another;

- It reminds us that information entities—authors, works, subjects, categories, locations— can hold more than one name and sustain more than one narrative;

- It reminds us that learning can be a destabilizing and painful process for all of us.

These four reminders have deep implications for the professional activities of classification and indexing, and the ways in which these activities are theorized in information studies communities.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Classification and indexing within a broader perspective of human intellectual activity. Current research trends in the subject control of information. Further opportunities to practice classifying, subject cataloguing and indexing of documents. Ways in which classification and indexing principles are affecting, and affected by, new information technologies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

1. Contextualize classification and indexing as both a human social and intellectual activity and as a suite of professional skills and practices (PLLO 5);

2. Research topics related to classification and indexing within the body of LIS scholarly and professional literature (PLLO 2);

3. Recognize, use and evaluate classification and indexing practice within a variety of traditional and emerging technologies (PLLO 4);

4. Use standard library tools and standards to index and classify information accurately and effectively (PLLO 6).

Course Learning Outcome: Students who complete this course will be able to:	Related MLIS Program-Level Learning Outcomes	What assignments provide evidence of learning outcomes?	How will instructors assess mastery of learning outcome?
1. Contextualize classification and indexing as both a human social and intellectual activity and as a suite of professional skills and practices	5. Relate the practices and roles of individual librarians and information professionals to broader organizational, professional, political, economic, social and technological contexts.	Mid-Term Paper Practicum Assignments Final Term Project	The mid-term paper will require students to investigate the intellectual dimensions of the course material; the term project will emphasize the social dimensions, and the practicum assignments will concentrate on acquiring the tangible skills.
2. Research topics related to classification and indexing within the body of LIS scholarly and professional literature	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.	Mid-Term Paper	The mid-term paper will require students to use standard scholarly databases to research relevant literature from both the scholarly and professional knowledge organization communities.
3. Recognize, use and evaluate classification and indexing practice within a variety of traditional and emerging technologies	4. Discriminate among current and emerging information and communication technologies to judge effective management and use in constantly changing information workplaces.	Mid-Term Paper Final Term Project Participation	Much of the class discussion will center on evaluating existing professional practices, assessing both their problems *and* their virtues, in the context of traditional library materials and also extending them to other technological and administrative contexts.
4. Use standard library tools and standards to index and classify information accurately and effectively	6. Navigate, evaluate and use multiple elements of a range of information environments, including those associated with data curation, information visualization, databases and information architectures.	Practicum assignments Participation	Through the use of the standard tools in both in-class and take-home exercises, the students will learn the basics of using DDC, LCC and LCSH, as well as other systems such as Universal Decimal Classification.

INSTRUCTION:

Grant Campbell
FIMS-Nursing Building, Room 4083
519-661-2111 x88483
gcampbel@uwo.ca
Office hours: Tuesday afternoons, 4:00-5:00 pm.
Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 pm. – 9:20 pm. in FIMS-Nursing Building, Room 2110.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

There is no required text for this class. Readings will be available either in closed reference at the GRC, or by electronic access through the library catalogue.

EVALUATION:

A series of short practicum exercises, some to be completed in class.	30 %
1 Mid-Term Paper Due date to be determined by the student within the month of February.	30 %
1 Final Term Project Due date to be determined by the student within the month of March.	30 %
Class participation	10 %

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance:
Students are expected to attend every class in the course, and to read the required readings beforehand. Students who need to miss a class for whatever reason should inform me beforehand if possible. Students who miss more than 2 classes may be required to compensate with extra work.

Late Penalties:
Due dates for the Mid-Term Paper and Final Term Project are to be determined by the student in consultation with the instructor by the following dates:
Mid-Term Paper: due date must be confirmed by January 21.
Final Term Project: due date must be confirmed by February 25.
The student must confirm the due dates with the instructor, at which point the late penalty policy comes into effect for any papers delivered after the confirmed due date.
Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5 % per day, unless an extension has been negotiated beforehand. Extensions for medical reasons must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation.

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
No plagiarism-checking software will be used in this course.

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.

Tentative Class Outline: Subject to Change

Date	First Half	Second Half
Jan. 7	Course Introduction	Theory of Subject Analysis: Introduction
Jan. 14	Practice: DDC	Theory: Document vs Depth Indexing
Jan. 21	Practice: DDC	Theory: Ontological vs Epistemological Approaches
Jan. 28	Practice: DDC	Theory: The Facet
Feb. 4	Practice: UDC	Theory: The Concept of "Equivalence"
Feb. 11	Practice: BC	Theory: "Taxonomic" vs. "Associative" Relationships
Feb. 18	READING WEEK	READING WEEK
Feb. 25	Practice: LCC	Theory: The Concept of "Warrant"
Mar. 3	Practice: LCC	Theory: The Concept of "Bias"
Mar. 10	Practice: LCC	Theory: The Concepts of "Voice" and "Marginalization"
Mar. 17	Practice: LCSH	Theory: The Concept of "Dialectic"
Mar. 24	Practice: LCSH	Theory: The Concept of Folksonomies
Mar. 31	Practice: LCSH	Theory: The Concept of Linked Data
Apr. 7	Course Conclusion	