

The University of Western Ontario
Faculty of Information and Media Studies

LIS 9001: Perspectives on Library and Information Science

**Graduate Course Outline
Fall Term 2021**

1. Course Information

Time & Place: Wednesdays, 9:00- 11:50 am; FNB 3220
Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom
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 (8 September 2021).

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: https://intranet.fims.uwo.ca/graduate/academic_programs/mlis/mlis_grading.html. 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	15%
2. Essay #1	25%
3. Essay #2	25%
4. Reading Responses	25%
5. Participation	10%
Total	100%

Assignments and Grading

Short Paper – 15% (due for *everyone* on **September 15**)

The first written assignment will be a short paper (in the range of 3 to 4 double spaced pages) due on **September 15**. This paper must be uploaded in **Microsoft 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%)

Students are required to submit **two** essays over the course of the term. Each essay must be uploaded in **Microsoft Word** format electronically onto the course website no later than 11:55 pm of the appropriate date. You have some flexibility with regard to which date to turn your essay in, based on which topic you choose to write on. The due dates are as follows: Essay #1 (**Oct 13 or Oct 20**); Essay #2 (**Nov 24 or Dec 1 or Dec 8**). More details about the essays will be given in a separate document.

Reading Responses- 25%

You will need to do **five** reading responses (**5% each**), which can be done for any week from September 22 onwards (exclusive of Research Week). There is no need to sign up for these responses or let myself or the TA know in advance which week you will write on. Simply choose five class weekly topics that you would like to write on and upload your reading response in **Microsoft Word** format. More details about this assignment will be given in a separate document.

Class Participation – 10%

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.

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/uwoom/mentalhealth/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.