

**LIS 9610 PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
FALL 2021  
COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor:** Julie Brandl

**Email:** [jbrandl@uwo.ca](mailto:jbrandl@uwo.ca)

**Class:** Online, Wednesday, September 8 – Tuesday, December 14, 2021

**“Office” Hours:** Email is the best way to communicate with me; I will respond as quickly as possible, typically within a few hours. If you wish to speak to me directly, we can arrange for a phone call or conversation (Zoom or FaceTime).

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the roles performed by public libraries in meeting the needs of the community. It will examine the history and development of public libraries, as well as current issues facing them today. Through discussion, readings, lectures and assignments, this course will explore current and future challenges that impact public libraries in North America.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. Develop public service oriented attitudes (PLLO 3, 5);
2. Critically evaluate community structures and dynamics in order to determine the library’s role in the community and to analyze its response to changing community needs (PLLO 1, 2, 4, 5, 8);
3. Design or recommend public library services which meet the needs of the whole community, as well as specific client groups (PLLO 5, 8, 9);
4. Understand the organization of public libraries, the role of library boards in their management and the effect of organizational structure on service (PLLO 7).

**ENROLMENT RESTRICTIONS**

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Master of Library and Information Science program.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Evaluation will be based on the following assignments and activities:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Grade %</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Forum participation (ongoing each week) and mini-assignments (3)	20%	Mini-assignments due: Sept. 21, Sept. 28 & Dec. 7 at 11:55 pm
Reflections (2)	10%	Tuesday, September 14 and Friday, December 14 at 11:55 pm

Maker/Discovery activity	15%	<i>Various</i> ; Sign up by Tuesday, September 21 at 11:55 pm
Program Planning – choose from list of topics provided by instructor	25%	Tuesday, October 19 by 11:55 pm
Written paper – topic of your choice (topic must be approved by instructor by October 12)	30%	Tuesday, November 30 by 11:55 pm

Assignments should be submitted through OWL.  
Detailed assignment instructions posted on OWL.

### **COURSE TIMELINE AND FORMAT**

This course is being offered online in an asynchronous learning experience.  
More detailed course timeline posted on OWL.

Class 1 – September 8-14 – The Public Library: History, Evolution, Purpose & Impact

Class 2 – September 15-21 – Governance, Legislation, & Organizational Structure

Class 3 – September 22-28 – Serving the Needs of the Community

Class 4 – September 29-October 5 – Service and Program Planning

Class 5 – October 6-12 – Collection Management and Lending Services

Class 6 – October 13-19 – Information and Readers’ Advisory Services

Class 7 – October 20-26 – Community Engagement, Outreach and Partnerships

Class 8 – October 27- November 9 – MakerSpaces + Library Spaces and Places

Research Week – November 1-5

Class 9 – November 10-16 - Serving Vulnerable Populations

Class 10 – November 17-23 - Serving Different Client Groups - Part 1 (Children and Teens)

Class 11 – November 24-30 – Serving Different Client Groups - Part 2 (Older Adults, Newcomers, Indigenous Peoples)

Class 12 – December 1-7 – Marketing, Advocacy and Fund Development

Class 13 – December 8-14 – Leadership and Your Future in Librarianship

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

All required readings will be available online through Western Libraries or the open web or provided in PDF format by instructor on the Resources section of the class OWL site.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Course Expectations:**

Each week's topic will be posted to OWL by Wednesday at 9 am and work on the topic should be completed by the following Tuesday at 11:55 pm (except for Research Week, when you will have an additional week for completion).

Students will "attend" class each week by working through weekly modules on OWL and by demonstrating a significant online presence. Students will be expected to spend a minimum of 10-12 hours per week on viewing and listening to resources, reading from assigned readings, forum topics and research, and working on assignments.

**Writing:** Marks will be deducted for poor grammar, style or spelling. If you need help, visit the Writing Support Centre at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing>. You may use a style guide of your course, as long as it used consistently throughout papers.

**Grading:** Grading will confirm to the guidelines outlined in the MLIS Graduate Student Handbook

[http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P269\\_25111](http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P269_25111)

**Late assignments:** Late assignments will be given a 5% penalty per day unless you have medical/compassionate reasons that you have discussed with the instructor in advance of the due date.

**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://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

**Appeals and Discipline:** Details regarding Western's appeals and discipline policies and regulations for graduate studies can be found at:

<https://grad.uwo.ca/administration/regulations/13.html>

## **SUPPORTS**

### **Health and Wellness 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.

### **Accessible Education Western (AEW)**

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of

services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with **Accessible Education Western (AEW)**, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both **AEW** and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction. For more information see:

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)