

Faculty of Information and Media Studies
GRADLIS 9001 – Perspectives on Library and Information Science
Spring 2021

Course Information

Time: Asynchronous. New weekly course material added on Monday mornings.

Section: 650

Instructor Information

Instructor: Roger Chabot, MLIS, PhD

Email: rchabot2@uwo.ca

Office Hours (Questions/Concerns): By appointment over Zoom

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. Listen to the assigned audio-visual modules each week.
2. Complete the assigned readings each week.
3. Complete 10 reading responses.
 - a. Weight: 10 @ 4% each = 40%
 - b. Due in any 10 of 14 weeks (no response in Reading Week)
4. Complete 2 essays.
 - a. Weight: 1 @ 30%, 1 @ 30%
 - b. Due: Week 7 and Week 14

****Requirements may be subject to change****

Course Materials

All of the course readings are provided to you directly through each week's lesson in the course OWL site. The great majority of readings (outlined below) are also available through the Western Libraries catalogue (<http://lib.uwo.ca>) and the internet. Assigned book chapters have been scanned for you.

Course Policies

Attendance: There are no in-class or mandatory synchronous portions to this course. However, it is advised that the assigned lectures, readings, and assignments for the course are completed in the week that they are assigned or are due. I have built-in some flexibility into this course in order to help students manage online learning which they might normally be accustomed to, and because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This may mean that some weeks there is no "deliverable" to submit for a grade. However, it is expected that in these weeks you still engage with whatever reading or lecture content that is made available. 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. I also track views on the lecture videos which I host unlisted on YouTube. Students should plan for this course to occupy approximately 3-5 hours of their time each week.

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/universec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. The University's plagiarism policy requires instructors to remind students that, "Students must write their assignments and essays

in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by using quotation marks when quoting directly from another work and by proper referencing such as footnotes or in-text citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offences Policy in the Western Academic Calendar)". See the MLIS student handbook for more details.

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.

Communication: I check my email regularly throughout the day and will usually respond within a 24-hour period. Please put "9001" somewhere in the subject line so that I can effectively triage my inbox. Responses may be slower on weekends. Please plan your work ahead, as I may be unable to respond to questions about assignments immediately before deadlines. Questions that may take some time to answer are best addressed "face-to-face" by making an appointment to meet with me via teleconference.

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 come 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.

Guidelines, Expectations, and Advice on the Course Requirements

On Graduate-Level Writing

While the MLIS is a professionally-focused, course-based degree, it remains *graduate education* with greater expectations than at the undergraduate level. The purpose of this class and its assignments are not merely for you to acquire new knowledge and regurgitate it to me, but rather to *create new knowledge and offer new perspectives* yourself (one of the "perspectives" from the class title is yours!).

This course is meant not only to provide you with an introduction to key ideas in LIS, but it is an opportunity to continue to further develop your academic writing skills at the graduate level. Your writing will be evaluated on its content, the mechanics of language, your rhetorical skills, and your adherence to the citation style. Writing should be done in a scholarly and professional tone. Your grade will be negatively affected by incorrect spelling, and excessive grammatical errors. Your writing should avoid contractions and slang. Use subheadings, if applicable, to organize your writing. Where applicable, include introduction and conclusion sentences or

paragraphs that include a “roadmap” or summary of your arguments. Titles of assignments should be meaningful or indicative of its content (i.e., “Assignment #1” is an unacceptable title). Do not cite the class lectures in your written work (find instead a better source!).

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.

Submitting Essay Assignments

All written essay assignments should be type-written, in a standard 12-point font, with one-inch margins on all sides. All written essay assignments must be submitted electronically through the OWL site. Please submit your essay assignments in a Microsoft Word format (.docx or .doc) to facilitate ease of commenting on your written work. *Please do not submit your assignments as a PDF (these are more difficult to add comments to)!* Graded assignments will also be returned to you through OWL. There is no need to include title pages on your assignments, but make sure your name, the date, my name, and the course number is included at the head of the first page of your essays.

Submitting Reading/Lecture Responses

Please submit your Reading/Lecture Response Activities by copying and pasting them into the space provided when you go to submit the assignment. There is no need for any titles or other identifying information, but do include your references. I do not recommend composing your statements in the writing space in OWL as the automatic saving feature can be wonky. Lost work there is irretrievable, so I suggest writing your response first in a word processor.

Citation Style for Assignments

All assignments should follow the **American Psychological Association (APA) Style, 7th edition**. APA is the predominant style in LIS. If this is a style you are currently unfamiliar with, consider it an opportunity to become an expert in a new one. The ability to be fluent in a variety of styles is something that is frequently demanded of librarians. I recommend the website of the [Online Writing Lab](#) at Purdue University for their clear guidelines and the [APA Style Blog](#) for citing unique items.

Late Assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day, or part thereof, unless permission is requested in advance of the due date or appropriate documentation is provided.

Assignments will be considered late after 11:55pm Eastern Time (not your local time if it is different) on the Sunday evening before the next week of the course begins.

Appeals regarding graded assignments must be made within 3 weeks of receiving the graded assignment.

Extensions for assignments will be considered if you notify me by e-mail in advance of the due date. Accommodation will also be made on religious, medical, or compassionate grounds.