LIS 9319 Science, Technology, and Medical Information
Graduate Program of Library and Information Science
Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Western University
Summer 2021

Instructor: Stephen Coulstring
Email: scoulstr@uwo.ca

Course Description

This course surveys the nature, presence, and communication of science, technology, and medical information. Students will gain an awareness of the information needs belonging to communities of practice in select disciplines. As well, students will consider the roles of information professionals in supporting students, researchers, and other participants in science, technology, and medicine.

PREREQUISITES: LIS 9003

Course Objectives

1. To investigate the information requirements of practitioners in science, technology, and medicine.

2. To develop the skills and knowledge to provide library and information services to users of science, technology, and medical information.

3. To develop familiarity with information formats, conventions, sources, methodologies, and issues attached to user communities.

4. To demonstrate an awareness of professional values and standards.

5. To draw valid conclusions based upon sound analysis of reliable data.

Pedagogical Approaches

Pedagogical approaches for course instruction include lectures, database labs, and online forum topics, and at least one guest visit on MS Teams. Assigned readings are drawn from academic, technical, and conference publications. Approximately one hour of synchronous lecture or lab is scheduled once per week—Mondays 1-2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time—via MS Teams. Note that during student science topic presentations, synchronous class sessions may extend to 1.5 hours. Student attendance at synchronous sessions is optional. Lecture and lab content not covered during synchronous session will be provided on the course OWL site.

Instructor Information

Stephen Coulstring (BSc, BA, BEd, MA, MLIS) is a lecturer with the Faculty of Information and Media Studies. He has over two decades of experience with reference service, bibliographic instruction, collection management, and quality assurance in a special government library context—Canada Revenue Agency. His research experience and interests include business, law, science, and public records. He has taught the following LIS courses: LIS 9323 Business and Industry Information; LIS 9318 Legal Information; LIS 9316 Government Information; LIS 9319 Science, Technology, and Medical Information.

Course Policies

Writing - Professional, grammatically correct writing is expected. This means that spelling, punctuation, and grammar are part of assignment evaluation. If you need assistance with writing, find someone whose writing skills you trust to proofread your written work or visit the Writing Support Centre http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/.

Scholastic offences - These 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: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf Collaboration is inappropriate in this course. Penalties for inappropriate collaboration (with no plagiarism) could include any of the following: the grade on the assignment is divided equally among all the students who collaborated inappropriately; failure on the assignment; and in extreme case (such as when the assignment accounts for a high proportion of the course grade), failure in the course.

Wellness - 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.

Student Accessibility Services - 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 encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both SAS 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://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/

Communication – The instructor plans to respond within 24 hours to all relevant course email that is sent to scoulstr@uwo.ca.

Formatting – Assignments should have single-line spacing. Assignments have due dates and instructions posted to the course site on OWL. Assignments are due unless other arrangements apply.

Grading – Grading will conform to the guidelines published in the MLIS Graduate Student Handbook (https://intranet.fims.uwo.ca/graduate/academic_programs/mlis/mlis_grading.html).

Assignments

To complete this course, students must follow online content on the course OWL site and submit the following assignments:

Assignment Name	Weight	Scheduling	
Definitions	15%	Assigned: May 10	Due: May 21
Business Case (Scopus v WOS)	25%	Assigned: May 17	Due: May 28
Topic Report	25%	Assigned: May 18	Due: Jun 25
Topic Report Presentation*	20%	Assigned: Jul 6	Various dates in Jul & Aug
Participation (forum topic postings)	15%	Various dates	

* The Topic Report Presentation is drawn from the Topic Report assignment; the student shares her/his findings by presentation during a synchronous class session.