

GRADLIS 9610 PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Graduate Program of Library and Information Science
Western University
Summer 2021

Instructor: Julie Brandl, jbrandl@uwo.ca

Class: online May 10 – August 13, 2021

Office Hours: Via email or telephone by request

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).

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Evaluation will be based on the following assignments and activities:

| Assignment | Grade % | Due date |
|--|----------------|---|
| Forum participation and mini-assignments | 20% | |
| Reflections (2) | 10% | |
| Maker/Discovery activity | 15% | <i>Various</i> ; Sign up by Tuesday, May 25 at 11:55 pm |
| Program Planning – choose from list of topics provided by instructor | 25% | Tuesday, June 22 by 11:55 pm |
| Written paper – topic of your choice (topic must be approved by instructor by June 14) | 30% | Tuesday, August 3 by 11:55 pm |

Assignments should be submitted through OWL.

COURSE MATERIALS

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

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:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Western's "Health and Wellness" at <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (SAS)

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/>