

LIS 9130 Information Policy
MLIS Program, Faculty of Information & Media Studies, Western University
Summer 2021

Course Information

Online Course, May 10th – August 13th 2021

Time: Asynchronous. New weekly course material added on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am.

PhD Students Only: Required discussion hour on Mondays from 3-4PM EST on Zoom.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Davin Helkenberg

Email: dhelkenb@uwo.ca

“Office” Hours: Zoom appointments available by request on Mondays.

I check my e-mail regularly and will respond within 24 hours unless otherwise specified. I may not respond on weekends, except when major assignments are due. Please keep in mind that I am located in the PST time zone, 3 hours behind local London time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course introduces information policy concepts and issues with which practitioners need to be familiar. The course will consider information policy; the policy process and players; individual policies which influence information creation and access in Canada; and the role of librarians in policy development.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the course are:

1. Expand student awareness of macro-level (i.e. governmental and intergovernmental) policy making and how policy outcomes ultimately affect local and institutional information policy;
2. Promote awareness of the role of information policy as a driver of library policy;
3. Increase student awareness of the role of the library and information community as stakeholders in the policy process, and the role that individual library associations can play in policy development;
4. Provide students an opportunity to explore particular policy areas in depth;
5. Provide strategies for policy analysis and writing/presenting professional policy briefs
6. Encourage students to become involved as professional leaders in national and international information developments.

COURSE MATERIALS

All required materials are available electronically through OWL within the Resources Tab or directly in each week’s module. The great majority of readings are also available through the Western Libraries catalogue (<http://lib.uwo.ca>) and the internet. Assigned book chapters have been scanned for you wherever possible.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS [Subject to Change]

The course will be structured primarily as an asynchronous learning experience where students work individually or in large groups (i.e. forum participation). Students should expect to spend a *minimum* of 8-10 hours per week on assignments, reading (i.e., assigned reading, research) exercises, and viewing and listening to resources.

Students are expected to read the required readings and complete the modules (any written or audio-visual lecture materials) in each week of the course, regardless of whether something is due or not that week. You are responsible for this content.

For PhD students only, attendance is required on Mondays 3-4PM EST for weekly discussion on Zoom.

Assignments

All assignments including weekly exercises are always due no later than 11:55pm Monday evenings. All work will be submitted through OWL.

MLIS Students

Policy Responses: Weeks 2, 4, 6, and 10 @ 10% each = 40%

Policy Report

- a) Policy Report Outline, Week 8 = 10%
- b) Presentation, Week 12 = 20%
- c) Final Policy Report, Week 13 = 30%

PhD Students

Participation = 20%

Scaffolding Paper and Presentation

- a. Narrative Lit Review, Week 5 = 20%
- b. Paper Outline, Week 8 = 10%
- c. Presentation, Week 12 = 20%
- d. Final Paper, Week 13 = 30%

COURSE POLICIES

Grading

Grading follows the [Grading Guidelines published in the MLIS Graduate Student Handbook](#).

Late Assignments and Extensions

Late papers will receive a 5% penalty per day including weekends unless there are legitimate grounds for an extension based on compassionate, medical, or religious reasons. Extensions for assignments will be considered if you notify me by e-mail in advance of the due date. If you

have need for ongoing flexibility or formal accommodations, you will need to contact Brandi Borman (bborman@uwo.ca) at FIMS Graduate Student Services for options.

OWL Course Management Features

Please be aware that the OWL course management software allows me to see who in the class has or has not been logging into OWL or accessing the course materials on a regular basis. When necessary, I primarily look at this information to identify when a student may be in need of support to complete the course.

Statement on Academic Offences

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 website:

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

See also the section on [Academic Offences in the MLIS Student Handbook](#).

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.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Each week the class modules will go live Tuesdays at 9:00am, so the schedule reflects a Tuesday-Monday weekly cycle.