

# **LIS 9610: Public Libraries**

## **Fall 2022**

Instructor: Bessie Sullivan

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Office hours: virtually by appointment & before or after class

Synchronous sessions on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-8:00pm by zoom

### **Course description**

Development of a public service mindset. Understanding of the organization of public libraries, the role of library boards in their management, and the effect of organizational structure on their services. Exploration of community structure, dynamics, and attitudes towards the public library and its potential to serve the whole community, including special client groups. Examine current political and cultural issues affecting public libraries.

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

1. Develop public service-oriented attitudes (PLLO 3,5)
2. Understand the organization of public libraries, the role of boards in their management and the effect of organizational structure on service. (PLLO 7)
3. Critically evaluate community structures and dynamics in order to determine the library's role in the community and to analyse its response to changing community needs. (PLLO 1,2,4,5,8)
4. Demonstrate awareness of, and analyze, current issues, trends, challenges, and opportunities in public libraries (PLLO 1, 2, 5)

### **Course Format**

This course will run fully online with synchronous meetings on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Students are expected to complete readings for each week's topic and be prepared to discuss the topic. There will be videos, speakers, activities, and discussion.

*Attendance* –I would very much like it if you came to every class, but I do understand that other priorities can sometimes interfere. Please remember that your participation grade will depend on you being prepared for class and respectfully engaging in discussion during class.

### **Course Materials**

All materials will be available electronically via Owl, or available freely online.

### **Course Timeline and Evaluation**

Date	Topic	Assignments
Participation	Group led discussion	20% (4 X5%)
September 14	Introduction	
September 21	Reading, literacy, and books	
September 28	Technology, maker space, and the digital divide	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Reflection 15%
October 5	Community building and partnerships	
October 12	Freedom of expression, right to privacy, censorship, and neutrality	
October 19	Current challenges in public libraries 1	2nd Reading Reflection 15%
October 26	Current challenges in public libraries 2	
November 2	No class	
November 9	Marketing, publicity, and promotion	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft of Current Issue Paper 10%
November 16	Equity, diversity, and inclusion	

November 23	Planning, policies, and legislation	
November 30	Board structure, relationship with municipalities, and governance vs. operations	Policy 15%
December 7	Professional development, volunteer work, and associations	
December 14	Proving value and contribution to economic development	Final Draft Current Issue Paper 25%

### Health/Wellness Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@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.

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