

LIS 9130/9811 Information Policy
MLIS Program, Faculty of Information & Media Studies, Western University
Summer 2022

Course Information

Online Course: May 9th – August 12th 2022

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

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the MLIS and PhD LIS programs.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Davin Helkenberg

Email: dhelkenb@uwo.ca

“Office” Hours: I am available Mondays 1-2pm EST on Zoom.

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

Expectations

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), 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. Students are responsible for this content.

Assignments (subject to change)

All assignments are always due no later than 11:55pm Monday evenings. All work will be submitted through OWL. *Please see separate Assignments document for assignment details.*

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 13 = 20%
- c) Final Policy Report, Week 14 = 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 13 = 20%
- d) Final Paper, Week 14 = 30%

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Week 1: Introduction to Information Policy

Week 2: Approaches to Policy Analysis

Week 3: Ethics and Values

Week 4: Intro to Critical Social Theory

Week 5: Intellectual Property

Week 6: Intellectual Freedom and Censorship

Week 7: Privacy, Surveillance, Access Pt. 1

Week 8: RESEARCH WEEK

Week 9: Privacy, Surveillance, Access Pt. 2

Week 10: Internet Policy

Week 11: Information Policy in Information Institutions

Week 12: Special Topics

Week 13: Professional Development and Service

Week 14: Class Presentations and Discussion

COURSE POLICIES

Grading

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

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, 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.

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 in the [UWO Academic Handbook](#) or [Academic Offences in the MLIS Student Handbook](#).

Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Western's "Health and Wellness"](#) website for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.