

The University of Western Ontario
Faculty of Information and Media Studies

LIS 9130/9811: Perspectives on Library and Information Science

**Graduate Course Outline
Winter Term 2022**

1. Course Information

Time & Place: Thursdays, 9:00 – 11:50 am; FNB 2230
Office Hours: TBD
Telephone: (519) 661-2111 x 85616
Email: apyati@uwo.ca

2. Instructor Information

Dr. Ajit Pyati
Associate Professor
Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS)
FIMS website: http://www.fims.uwo.ca/people/profiles/ajit_pyati.html

3. 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

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.

4. Course Materials

Course Topics and Readings

Please note that all the course readings are available on the course website and/or via Western Libraries. It is the responsibility of students to make their own copies of readings. Details about the readings will be on the final course syllabus, which students will receive on the first day of class (January 6, 2022).

Topics covered in this class include (but are not limited to):

intellectual property; intellectual freedom; privacy and surveillance; internet policy; social media regulation; big data; critical approaches to policy analysis; AI and information policy; etc.

5. Methods of Evaluation

MLIS Grade Guidelines and Late Assignments

The MLIS Student Handbook contains criteria used to grade assignments:

https://intranet.fims.uwo.ca/graduate/academic_programs/mlis/mlis_grading.html. Late assignments will be penalized at 5% per day, unless appropriate documentation was provided. Assignments that are more than five days late will not be accepted.

Course Requirements

To complete this course you must attend all classes, read the required readings, and do the following assignments:

- Policy Responses – (3 required, 10% each; due Jan 13, Feb 3, and Feb 24) = 30%
- Online Posts (2 required, 5% each) = 10%
- Policy Brief Outline (due March 10) = 5%
- Participation = 10%
- Policy Brief Presentation (date TBD) = 20%
- Final Policy Brief (due April 7) = 25%
- Total: **100%**

For PhD students, the following grading scheme is in place:

- Policy Responses (2 required, 10% each; due Jan 13 and another flex date) = 20%
- Participation = 10%
- Additional Reading Write-Ups = 20%
- Oral Presentation of Final Paper = 10%
- Final Paper Outline = 5%
- Final Paper = 35%
- Total: **100%**

6. 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/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

7. Support Services

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.