

## LIS 9201: Classification and Indexing

Fall 2023

**Instructor:** Dr. D. Grant Campbell, Associate Professor

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**Office hours:** TBA

**Class Times:** Tuesday afternoons, 1:30 pm. – 4:20 pm.

**Location:** TBA

**ENROLLMENT RESTRICTIONS:** Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Master of Library and Information Science Program, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

The pre-requisite for this course is LIS 9002. Students not possessing this pre-requisite must obtain permission from the instructor.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Classification and indexing within a broader perspective of human intellectual activity. Current research trends in the subject control of information. Further opportunities to practice classifying, subject cataloguing and indexing of documents. Ways in which classification and indexing principles are affecting, and affected by, new information technologies.

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

1. Contextualize classification and indexing as both a human social and intellectual activity and as a suite of professional skills and practices (PLLO 5);
2. Research topics related to classification and indexing within the body of LIS scholarly and professional literature (PLLO 2);
3. Recognize, use and evaluate classification and indexing practice within a variety of traditional and emerging technologies (PLLO 4);
4. Use standard library tools and standards to index and classify information accurately and effectively (PLLO 6).

<b>Course Learning Outcome: Students who complete this course will be able to:</b>	<b>Related MLIS Program-Level Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>What assignments provide evidence of learning outcomes?</b>	<b>How will instructors assess mastery of learning outcome?</b>
1. Contextualize classification and indexing as both a human social and intellectual activity and as a suite of professional skills and practices	5. Relate the practices and roles of individual librarians and information professionals to broader organizational, professional, political, economic, social and technological contexts.	Mid-Term Paper Practicum Assignments Final Term Project	The mid-term paper will require students to investigate the intellectual dimensions of the course material; the term project will emphasize the social dimensions, and the practicum assignments will concentrate on acquiring the tangible skills.
2. Research topics related to classification and indexing within the body of LIS scholarly and professional literature	2. Explain, analyse and interpret professional and scholarly literature, research data and information resources to articulate their implications for LIS and related fields of knowledge and practice.	Mid-Term Paper	The mid-term paper will require students to use standard scholarly databases to research relevant literature from both the scholarly and professional knowledge organization communities.
3. Recognize, use and evaluate classification and indexing practice within a variety of traditional and emerging technologies	4. Discriminate among current and emerging information and communication technologies to judge effective management and use in constantly changing information workplaces.	Mid-Term Paper Final Term Project Participation	Much of the class discussion will center on evaluating existing professional practices, assessing both their problems <i>and</i> their virtues, in the context of traditional library materials and also extending them to other technological and administrative contexts.
4. Use standard library tools and standards to index and classify information accurately and effectively	6. Navigate, evaluate and use multiple elements of a range of information environments, including those associated with data curation, information visualization, databases and information architectures.	Practicum assignments Participation	Through the use of the standard tools in both in-class and take-home exercises, the students will learn the basics of using DDC, LCC and LCSH, as well as other systems such as Universal Decimal Classification.

## Land Acknowledgement

**Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In this region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).**

Western University is committed to taking an active and conscientious part in processes of reconciliation, in conformity with the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In LIS 9201, this process focuses on the recommendation of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations to focus on the analysis and revision of library systems of cataloguing and classification, in the interests of protecting Indigenous knowledge.

While this analysis and revision will take place throughout the course, it will be particularly prominent in the following sections:

Week 5: Introduction to Classification

Week 8: Community-Based Classification

Week 11: Geography and History in Information Organization Systems

The course reading list contains a generous number of citations to support research into indigeneity and library cataloguing.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

There is no required text for this class. Readings will be available either in closed reference at the GRC, or by electronic access through the library catalogue.

**EVALUATION:**

Three short practicum exercises, due October 10, November 14, December 12	30 %
1 Mid-Term Paper , due October 24	30 %
1 Final Term Paper, due December 5	30 %
Class attendance and participation	10 %

**CLASS POLICIES:****Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend every class in the course, and to read the required readings beforehand. Students who need to miss a class for whatever reason should inform me beforehand if possible. Students who miss more than 2 classes may be required to compensate with extra work.

**Use of Electronic Devices:**

Students are permitted to use cell-phones and other electronic devices, provided that they do not disturb their colleagues or hinder the progress of the class.

**Late Penalties:**

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5 % per day, unless an extension has been negotiated beforehand. Extensions for medical reasons must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation.

**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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)  
No plagiarism-checking software will be used in this course.

**The use of any AI-powered language generator such as ChatGPT is forbidden for any and all assignments.**

No plagiarism-checking software will be used in this course.

**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.

**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.

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

**Tentative Class Outline: Subject to Change**

<b>Date</b>	<b>First Half</b>	<b>Second Half</b>
Jan. 7	Course Introduction	Theory of Subject Analysis: Introduction
Jan. 14	Practice: DDC	Theory: Document vs Depth Indexing
Jan. 21	Practice: DDC	Theory: Ontological vs Epistemological Approaches
Jan. 28	Practice: DDC	Theory: The Facet
Feb. 4	Practice: UDC	Theory: The Concept of "Equivalence"
Feb. 11	Practice: BC	Theory: "Taxonomic" vs. "Associative" Relationships
Feb. 18	READING WEEK	READING WEEK
Feb. 25	Practice: LCC	Theory: The Concept of "Warrant"
Mar. 3	Practice: LCC	Theory: The Concept of "Bias"
Mar. 10	Practice: LCC	Theory: The Concepts of "Voice" and "Marginalization"
Mar. 17	Practice: LCSH	Theory: The Concept of "Dialectic"
Mar. 24	Practice: LCSH	Theory: The Concept of Folksonomies
Mar. 31	Practice: LCSH	Theory: The Concept of Linked Data
Apr. 7	Course Conclusion	