

LIS 9610 650: PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Graduate Program of Library and Information Science
The University of Western Ontario
Summer 2024

Instructor: Allison Pilon, MLIS

Email: agraha53@uwo.ca

Class hours: Asynchronous online, course delivered via Brightspace.

Office Hours: I have set aside Wednesdays from 12pm-1pm to be available for Zoom meetings. Meetings may be booked in advance with individual students during this time or at other times if necessary. Please email me to book a meeting on 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.
2. Understand the organization of public libraries, the role of boards in their management and the effect of organizational structure on service.
3. Critically evaluate community structures and dynamics in order to determine the library's role in the community and to analyze its response to changing community needs.
4. Demonstrate awareness of, and analyze, current issues, trends, challenges, and opportunities in public libraries.

Course Format

This course is asynchronous. Course content will be posted every Sunday and students will receive an announcement in their email when the content is posted. Students are expected to login to the OWL site to complete assigned readings, post on the weekly forum and review the slideshow and/or video presentations.

Course Materials and Readings

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

There is a document posted in OWL called LIS9610 Weekly Readings which lists each week of required readings. I will post this in the module as well.

Course Content and Schedule

I will post new content on OWL every Sunday for you to access all week. Assignments are also due on Sundays.

Date	Topic and Assignment due dates
Week 1 May 5	Introduction to Public Libraries
Week 2 May 12	Collections and Literacy
Week 3 May 19	Technology, Makerspaces and the Digital Divide Reading Response no. 1 (15%) DUE May 19
Week 4 May 26	Community Building and Partnerships
Week 5 June 2	Intellectual Freedom, Censorship, and Neutrality
Week 6 June 9	Current Challenges in Public Libraries Reading Response no. 2 (15%) DUE June 9
Week 7 June 16	Library Space and Accessibility
Week 8 June 23	Programs and Marketing
READING WEEK	
Week 9 July 7	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Program Outline 20% DUE July 7
Week 10 July 14	Planning, Policies and Legislation
Week 11 July 21	Governance and Municipal Relations
Week 12	Professional Development, Volunteers, and Associations

July 28	Current Issues Paper 30% DUE July 28
Week 13 August 4	Demonstrating Value and Economic Development

Methods of Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on the following assignments and participation. All due dates are posted in the schedule above and are subject to late penalties without prior extension requests. Assignments will be reduced 2% per day if submitted late.

1. Participation via weekly forum posts (20%)

Participation for this asynchronous course will be based on weekly forum posts. You are required to respond to a weekly forum question. Your forum posts should be approximately 300 words in length and you are to respond to at least one of your classmates' posts as well with a thoughtful response.

2. Reading Reflections (15% x 2)

Choose any assigned reading and write a 2 page, double spaced, size 12 font reflection. Please do not summarize the article but instead write your own reflection upon the material as a personal response. List any references including the paper/article written about in the reflection.

3. Program Outline (20%)

Write a 2-3 page program outline for a program suitable for the public library. This assignment can be presented as a chart, a formal report, a powerpoint, or some other creative outlet. This program can be for a specific audience or open to everyone. The idea is to create a program idea to present to library management through a comprehensive outline.

4. Current Issues Paper (30%)

Write a paper which focuses on a current issue facing public libraries. Feel free to email me the topic in advance to check whether the topic is relevant. The paper should be no more than 7 pages double spaced, size 12 font, with at least 5 references.

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.

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/app