LIS 502C - Libraries, Information, and Society
Spring 2013
Thursday 9:00 - 10:50 am
Room 46 - LIS Bldg

Instructors: Chris D'Arpa (cdarpa2@illinois.edu) and Noah Lenstra (nlenstr2@illinois.edu)

Course description and week-by-week topics

Explores major issues in the library and information science professions as they involve their communities of users and sponsors. Analyzes specific situations that reflect the professional agenda of these fields, including intellectual freedom, community service, professional ethics, social responsibilities, intellectual property, literacy, historical and international models, the socio-cultural role of libraries and information agencies and professionalism in general, focusing in particular on the interrelationships among these issues. Required M.S. degree core course. 2 or 4 graduate hours.

This course is organized as a seminar and emphasizes discussion and the active participation of everyone.

Course outline

Jan 17	Introduction
Jan 24	ALA Archives orientation - meet at ARC
Jan 31	Information and the public good
Feb 7	Literacy, printing, and reading
Feb 14	Information professions, professionalization, and ethics
Feb 21	Intellectual freedom and censorship
Feb 28	Research day to work in the ALA Archives
March 7	Intellectual property, copyright, and fair use
March 14	Research day to work in the ALA Archives
March 21	Spring break
March 28	Libraries, museums, and archives
April 4	Social justice, global context, and the digital divide
April 11	Policy: the global context
April 18	Course wrap-up and discussion
April 27	e-Chicago
May 2	Reading day

Course objectives

- To analyze major issues in the library and information science professions.
- To introduce and discuss specific areas of the professional agenda in LIS, including intellectual freedom, professional ethics, copyright and intellectual property, literacy, the socio-cultural role of libraries and information agencies, and professionalism.
- To examine the historical contexts for these issues.
- To thoughtfully and actively engage in discussion to explore both the history and future of LIS practice and principles.

Required readings

D'Angelo, E. (2006). Barbarians at the gates of the public library: How postmodern consumer capitalism threatens democracy, civil education, and the public good. Library Juice Press, LLC (Duluth MN). (available at the Illini Union Bookstore).

All other required readings will be live links and freely available on the Web, uploaded to the moodle, or available via course e-reserves (ER) at the UIUC Library.

We will add resources to the Moodle space throughout the course. These will generally be things we think you might find useful or interesting, but you will not be required to read them during our course.

Grading

30%   Participation - in-class discussion, class readings, Moodle posts, leading class discussion, poster presentation at eChicago conference, and:
- GSLIS or LIS-related lectures
- Assignment #1: LIS in the news
- Assignment #2: values and practice
10%   Assignment #3: The journal literature of LIS
10%   Assignment #4: in-class activity: information policy in global context
10%   Assignment #5: presentation of research / term poster
40%   Assignment #6: research paper

Assignments

Participation:
    Lead class discussion:
        1. Prepare and lead class discussion - due date is variable
        Each student will prepare a presentation that helps the class understand and critically engage a weeks' readings. (If we have enough students we will have you work in groups.) Each presentation should include a one-page handout with:
- 1-2 quotes from each reading, and what those quotes mean to the students in the context of the thesis of the article and in the broader context of the week's readings. (Note, students responsible for the presentation may not agree, but we expect you to discuss the readings and engage your disagreement as you prepare for your presentation.)
- 3 questions that critically engage and synthesize the readings for the week as a whole.
- Prepare a short annotated bibliography of at least 3 additional sources/resources related to the topics for your week. (At least half should be scholarly articles. The others are at your discretion.)

    Present research poster at eChicago Conference on Friday, April 26, 2013. This is a required activity for the course. We will talk more about it in class.

    Weekly Moodle posts (weeks 1, 3-7, and 11-14)
        Use the weekly discussion forums for the following work:
- Each student should write a short post that identifies the main points of the required readings, pull a meaningful quote, say why it is important, and ask a question for the class to discuss. Please post by Tuesday (two days before our class meets).
- Each student should read the posts by their classmates and feel free to respond or extend the discussion in the Moodle. You will be creating a resource for the entire class as you do.

GSLIS or LIS-related lectures requirement

GSLIS and UIUC are top-rated institutions with very strong intellectual communities. Public lectures are one important way those communities share research and engage colleagues. This semester the 502 instructors are requiring all 502 students to attend five (5) public lectures. There is a dedicated Moodle space that brings together all the 502 sections. (Look for Libraries, Information, and Society LIS502 in the courses tab on your Moodle page.) We expect you to be an active participant in this 502 community space. Use it to report back on at least three (3) of the lectures you attend and engage with 502 students from the other sections of the course.

Generally, we would like you to post the following:
- full information about the lecture you attended (date, lecturer's name, title, and affiliation, and title of the talk)
- what were the main points of the lecturer's presentation
- share two questions you had for the lecturer (whether you asked them or not)
- tell us what you think LIS can learn from the presentation/how the research is relevant to LIS

Assignment #1 - LIS in the news. DUE: Tuesday January 15, 2013 at 11pm

Post the following in the discussion forum space, LIS in the News, for our first meeting
- Find a current news article or opinion piece related to LIS. Choose from one of the following media outlets:
  - A major newspaper (e.g., New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post, Miami Herald, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times -- these are just examples)
  - The Chronicle of Higher Education
  - The Atlantic
  - Harpers
  - The New Yorker
  - The Economist
  - The Nation
- Write a short synopsis and review that includes the main points of the article, why it is important, post a significant quote from the article, and pose a question to the class. (No more than 300 words.)
- Each student should read all of the other posts before our first class meeting.

Assignment #2 - Values and practice DUE: January 28, 2013 at 11pm

1. Read the following material:
   - [ALA Library Bill of Rights](#)
   - [ALA Freedom to Read Statement](#)
   - Freire, Paulo. "[The Adult Literacy Process as Cultural Action for Freedom](#)." Harvard Educational Review 40 (May 1970): 205-225.

2. Write a brief essay that synthesizes the main points of each reading and discuss how the three are related or relevant to each other and to practice in library and information science.

NB: Your essay should be no more than 3 pages not including your citations/bibliography. Please be sure to put your name, the course number and title, date, and assignment number and title on your document, and number the pages. Times New Roman 12 pt font and double-spaced text.

Assignment #3 - The journal literature of LIS paper. DUE: March 4, 2013 at 11:00pm

In collaboration with a LIS librarian please select a scholarly journal in LIS, carefully review its table of contents for two entire years, one year from the 1960s, and 2010. Identify trends for each year and speculate on how the discipline has evolved and where it might be going.

Written paper 5-7 double-spaced pages (excluding notes and bibliography). Please be sure to put your name, the course number and title, date, and assignment number and title on your document, and number the pages. Times New Roman 12 pt font and double-spaced text.

In addition to your review of the tables of contents for each issue for both years we ask that you select one (1) representative article from each year. Your write up should offer the reader (your colleagues in this course) a sense of the mission, purpose, place, and impact of the journal you select for this assignment.

For this assignment you will need to visit with one of the LIS librarians, Daniel Tracy dtracy@illinois.edu or Sandy Wolf swolf2@illinois.edu.

Assignment #4 - In-class activity April 11: Information policy in global context
We will talk about this assignment in class.

Assignment #5 - ALA Archives research poster - DUE: April 9, 2013 at 11:00pm
The University of Illinois Library prepared the following LibGuide for research posters. Please review the information provided here before we discuss the assignment for our class.

We will be discussing in more detail expectations for your research poster as the semester proceeds. After turning in your poster to the instructors, you will present your research poster at the eChicago 2013 conference to be held at the University of Illinois at Chicago April 26-27. The eChicago conference is a great opportunity to present your work in a professional setting, and to network with librarians, archivists and other information professionals working in the Chicago area. Proceedings from past years can be accessed at: http://echicago.illinois.edu/index.html. A grant will support free transportation to-and-from the conference on Friday, April 26, and will also cover the printing fees associated with producing the poster. The conference will be held at UIC Student Center East, 750 S. Halsted Details on transportation to-and-from this conference are:

- o   Bus departs from GSLIS, Friday April 26, 6 am
- o   Bus arrives back at GSLIS same day, April 26, 7 pm
- o   The second day of the conference is Saturday, 8:30-3, and people are welcome to stay over with a friend in Chicago and stay for Saturday if they wish.

Assignment #6 - ALA Archives research paper. DUE: May 12, 2013 at 11:00pm
This assignment offers you the opportunity to look at the relationship between policy and practice by using primary source materials in the archives of the American Library Association at UIUC.

We will have an orientation to this project, including a handout from the archives and we will be discussing it more in class.

This is the one assignment that distinguishes the 2 and 4 credit options. Here are the general requirements if you are thinking about whether to take this course for 2 or 4 credits:

- Students taking this course for 2 credits will write a 5-7 page descriptive paper (excluding notes & bibliography) about what they found in the archives, and how it connects with the material we cover in class.
- Students taking the class for 4 credits will write a more formal research paper that includes a critical analysis and contextualizes the primary sources of the ALA Archives with 10 additional secondary sources. The 4 credit option requires a 15-20 page paper (excluding notes & bibliography).
- Each student will submit a topic proposal after our orientation to the ALA Archives.
- Each student will do a presentation in class on her or his topic, research questions, and findings.

Research paper topic statement. DUE: February 14, 2013 at 11:00pm

The final/term project for the course has several parts. We want you to begin to think about the topics we will be discussing (weekly topics on the course moodle) and hone in on one that especially interests you. You will find that each is represented in the archives of the American Library Association held here at UIUC.

The purpose of the topic statement is to ensure you get an early start with your research for this course with direction and feedback from the instructors.

Please submit a 2-page paper that describes the topic you plan to research in the ALA Archives. To get you started, review the topics for this course and familiarize yourself with the American Library Association -- its history, work, people, and priorities. In order to write your research statement you will also need to be familiar with the holdings and organization of the ALA Archives.

Be sure to read the ALA Archives orientation handout available on the course moodle and use it to guide you around and through the ALA Archives web site.

First steps before you hit on a clear topic include reviewing those to get a sense of what kinds of activity ALA engaged in around your topic. You will then need to identify some record series and boxes to get a quick look at out at the archives. It is only after pursuing these steps that you should write your topic statement.

Your research statement should include the following:
- a short description of your topic
- why you think it is important to learn more about it
- a description of the record groups you have identified in the ALA Archives that will help you explore this topic (a record group looks like this: 2/4/25 Carl H. Milam Papers, 1907-1964)
- complete citations for those record groups

This short paper will enable the course instructors to help you better focus your work and point you to resources.

Please let us know if you are you taking this class for 2 or 4 credit hours.

Ethics

Please review and reflect on the academic integrity policy of the University of Illinois, http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/article1_part4_1-401.html to which we subscribe. By turning in materials for review in LIS502C, you certify that all work presented is

your own and has been done by you independently or as a member of a designated group for group assignments.

DRES and disability-related concerns: To insure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning of the course, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class are asked to contact the instructors as soon as possible or to contact a representative of DRES (http://www.disability.illinois.edu/).