

Syllabus

Department: Division of Library and Information Science

Course Number and Title: LIS 233 Public Libraries and Community Information Centers

Bulletin Description: [25 words maximum]

This course introduces trends and issues in public librarianship. Topics: history, values and philosophies of public librarianship and the role of public libraries in society.

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-requisite(s): None

Course Objectives:

Through readings, online discussions, and written assignments, the student completing this course will be able to:

- Understand the values and philosophies that underpin modern American public librarianship;
- Understand the practical challenges and numerous rewards of public library praxis;
- Articulate professional knowledge about various public library stakeholders, including patrons, board members, and local-state-federal agencies;
- Make connections between theoretical knowledge and real-world public library contexts;
- Demonstrate professional-level written communication skills;

Program Goals and Outcomes:

8A) Understanding the principles of planning and budgeting in libraries and other information agencies, as well as developing effective personnel practices and human resources.

8B) Understanding the concepts behind, issues relating to, and methods for the following: assessment and evaluation of library services and their outcomes, developing partnerships, collaborations, networks, and other structures, and principled, transformational leadership.

Units of Instruction:

1:A Introductions; 1:B Library Today

2:A Historical Immigrant Services; 2:B Minority Services

3:A Public Input; 3:B Neglected Groups; 3:C Leadership; 3:D Leadership

4:A Library Stores; 4:B Library Cafes; 4:C Questions to Consider; 4:D Food

5:A Community Centers; 5:B Led or Managed?; 5:C Paraprofessionals

6:A Design; 6:B Components; 6:C Crime & Prevention

7:A Library Cards; 7:B Reason of Being

8:A Services; 8:B Input; 8:C Friends

9:A Race and Place; 9:B Current Article

10:A GLBTQ; 10:B GLBTQ Literature

11:Library Survey A Ratings; 11:B Interview Questions; 11:C Customer Survey; 11:D Survey; 11:E Other Public Info Sources

Bibliography:

Buschman, J. & Leckie, G. (Eds.). (2007). *The library as place, community, and culture: History, community, and culture*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.

Greiner, J. (2004). *Exemplary public libraries: Lessons in leadership, management, and service*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.

McCabe, G. & Kennedy, J. (Eds.). (2003). *Planning the modern public library building*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.

Instructional Time Requirements: 150 hours for 3 credits (10 hours per week for our 15 week semester)

- Asynchronous or synchronous Lecture
- Assigned weekly reading
- Weekly assignments (individual and group)
- Active participation in online discussions
- Research for semester-long projects (term papers, projects)
- Presentations (online or face to face)
- Academic Service-Learning projects (where appropriate)