

Syllabus

Department: Division of Library and Information Science

Course Number and Title: LIS 253 Oral History

Bulletin Description: [25 words maximum]

This cross-listed course will examine the methodological and interpretive issues concerning the practice of gathering and preserving oral testimony as historical evidence and interpretation.

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-requisite(s): None

Course Objectives

1. Professional Foundations including the ethics and values that inform the approach to oral history, the history of human communication and historical research, the legal framework libraries and archives collecting oral history operate, the national and international policies and trends that have influenced the collection and use of oral history, and the creation of professional organizations such as the Oral History Association.
2. Information Resources including the concepts, issues, and methods related to assembling and managing oral history collections.
3. Organization of Recorded Knowledge and Information including the principles involved in the gathering and organizing oral testimony and the creation of oral history archives.
4. Technical Knowledge and Skills including methods of gathering, accessing, and describing oral history and promoting its accessibility.
5. Reference and User Services including developing and implementing systems to evaluate and retrieve oral history and facilitate its use by researchers.
6. Research including the principles and methods used to assess the value of oral testimony and promote its use.
7. Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning including the ability to know how to find learning opportunities that address changes in ethical, technological and research practices.
8. Administration and Management including planning, budgeting and implementing oral history collections and digital archives.

Program Goals and Outcomes:

- 4 A) Acquire, apply, analyze and assess information, communication, assistive, and other technological skills related to resources, service delivery, professionalism, efficacy, and cost-efficiency of current technologies and relevant technological improvements.
- 7 B) Apply the learning theories, instructional methods, and achievement measures to the teaching and learning of concepts, processes and skills used in seeking, evaluating, and using recorded knowledge and information.

Units of Instruction:

I. Introduction to the Course and Locating Oral History Resources in the Library and on the World Wide Web

Natalie Milbrodt, Queens Memory Project

III. Oral History's History and Origins

Meet at the Archives of the Archdiocese of Brooklyn and Queens, 310 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn

vols. 1 and 2

vol. 3

IV. Oral History Ethics and Legal Requirements

vol. 3

V. Oral History Practice

vol. 4

vol. 5

interview preparation and practice

VI. Oral History, Memory and Theory

PT to 210

PT, p. 211 to 322

PT, 333-end

VII. Oral History Archives and Applications

post interview discussion and planning

Presentation to Natalie Milbrodt, Queens Public Library, Jamaica

VIII. Final presentations

Bibliography:

Quinland, McKay, and Sommer, *Introduction to Community Oral History*, vol. 1

Sommer, McKay, and Quinland, *Planning a Community Oral History Project*, vol. 2

Quinland, McKay, and Sommer, *Managing a Community Oral History Project* vol. 3

Quinland, McKay, and Sommer, *Interviewing in a Community Oral History*, vol. 4

Quinland, McKay, and Sommer, *After the Interview in Community Oral History*, vol. 5

Perks and Thomson, eds. *The Oral History Reader*. Second ed. (hereafter, PT)

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)