

**LS 501**  
**Introduction to Library and Information Studies**  
Fall 2008  
ONLINE MLIS SECTION

**Instructor:** Elizabeth Aversa, Professor

**Meets:** Monday evenings, 6:00 – 8:45 p.m. Central Time

**Catalog Description:** Required course designed to provide the student with a broad background in library and information studies. LS 501 must be taken in the first 12 hours of a student's program. Through a variety of instructional methods, this course examines three interrelated themes: the nature of the library and information profession; issues of intellectual freedom and access to information; and the impact of technology on society and the profession.

**Objectives:** Upon completion of the course, students will have developed

1. an integrated view of the basic functions of libraries and information organizations of several types;
2. an understanding of the relationships among social, political, economic, technical, and legal influences on the information professions;
3. an appreciation of the similarities and differences among organizations in which library and information work is performed;
4. knowledge of landmarks and important figures in library and information science;
5. an understanding of the nature of the profession, professional ethics, and the value and role of professional organizations;
6. the ability to relate information services and products, and issues of access to them, to user needs;
7. the ability to demonstrate an understanding of the role of information services from a multicultural perspective;
8. the ability to anticipate and adapt to change, both societal and technological, through informed opinions based on intellectual inquiry and critical analysis;
9. familiarity with the literature of the field of library and information studies;
10. knowledge of the relationship of library and information studies to other professions and fields of inquiry;
11. an understanding of current trends and important issues in the field; and
12. an enlarged view of the breadth of the field for practice, research, and development.

**Format for instruction:** The class will meet online weekly for lecture, discussion, and presentations by guest speakers and students. Lecture notes and/or slides will be available on eLearning following each session.

**Assignments:** There will be five assignments. Assignments will be made available at regular intervals. Written work should be submitted through the course drop box.

**Text:**

Greer, Roger C., et al. *Introduction to the Library and Information Professions*. (Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited) 2007. ISBN 978-1-59158-486-5.

An optional course resource is Rubin, Richard E., *Foundations of Library and Information Science*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc.) 2004. ISBN 1-55570-518-9.

Additional readings will be recommended. Students should keep a “reading log” for reference in subsequent courses when topics are addressed in greater depth.

**Evaluation:** All assignments will be graded. Points will be deducted for late assignments (one point per day). The following point values are possible for the assignments and for participation:

Assignments 1-3	10 points each	30
Assignment 4	30 points	30
Assignment 5	35 points	35
Participation	5 points	5
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Grand Total Possible		100 points

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

<70 = F

A grade of I (Incomplete) is reserved for emergencies that occur at the end of the semester or that unexpectedly preclude the student from completing the course on time. The instructor will not prearrange grades of Incomplete for convenience.

You will be invited to evaluate the course at the end of the term. Please participate in this valuable process. The instructor invites your comments throughout the course and reads all comments, suggestions, and recommendations.

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all synchronous sessions of the class and to participate in them. If you are going to miss a class due to illness, business obligations, family concerns, etc., please let me know so that arrangements can be made for you to make up the work missed. Repeated, unexcused absences will result in the loss of points for participation and a lower final grade in the course.

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Course Calendar

Changes are likely, so updates will be issued from time to time. They will *always* be announced in class. There will be fourteen class meetings.

Unit	Date	Topics	Notes
1	8-25	Introduction to LS 501 What We Are About: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Information Cycle</li> <li>➤ Other System Cycles</li> <li>➤ Influencers on the Information Professions</li> </ul>	Log in by 6:00p.m. Central Time  Assignment 5 Opens
2	9-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Library Science</li> <li>➤ Information Science               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Profession, Place, Discipline</li> <li>- Technology's Role</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Assignment 1 Opens
3	9-15	The Literature of L&IS The Nature of Research in L&IS	Assignment 2 Opens
4	9-22	Introduction to Policies & Stakeholders	Assignment 1 Due
5	9-29	Some Important Figures in L&IS	Assignment 2 Due
6	10-6	The Range of Possibilities: Types of Libraries, Their Governance, and Issues of Collaboration and Cooperation	Assignment 3 Opens
7	10-13	Professional and Scholarly Associations in L&IS LIS Education	
8	10-20	Fall Break – NO CLASS	
9	10-27	Information Infrastructures: Functions and Components	Assignment 3 Due
10	11-3	The Range of Possibilities: Careers in L&IS	Assignment 4 Opens
11	11-10	Issues in Access: Intellectual Freedom	
12	11-17	Issues in Access: Economics & Equity	
13	11-24	Issues in Access: Digital Divide	Assignment 4 Due
14	12-1	Conclusion and Evaluation	
	12-8		Assignment 5 Due