

LS 531: Assignments
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Assignment	Document Name (for submission)	Due Date	Points
Participation		ongoing	10
Response Journals (3)	lastname_rj1_531 lastname_rj2_531 lastname_rj3_531	6/22 7/13 8/3	15
Academic Library Literature Evaluation	lastname_liteval_531	7/6	35
Final Project	lastname_final_531	8/3	40
TOTAL			100

Participation (10%)

Much of the course material will be presented in the readings and discussions. You are expected to do the reading assigned for class and come to class prepared to offer your opinions about it. To participate in class you must be in attendance, so being present (physically and mentally) is pretty important. To facilitate discussion, please come to class prepared with at least three questions or topics suggested by the reading.

Response Journals (3) (15%)

Response journals provide me with a chance to get to know you better. This is especially important in the distributed education environment. Response journal topics can come from the readings, class discussions, outside sources, blog and listserv entries, etc. These are not essays or book reports but representations of your voice and opinions. Response journals do not receive individual grades but are evaluated in aggregate. Generally, students receive a “did they or didn’t they” grade for this item. If, however, your response journal entries are slapdash, too brief, or do not demonstrate appropriate reflection you will not receive full credit. Each entry should be at least 250 words.

Academic Library Literature Evaluation (35%)

Locate three journal articles on a specific topic* from three different journals that address academic librarianship.** Summarize the content of each article and evaluate the quality of the writing, research question and the method used to address it, and usefulness of the work. Then, compare the treatment of the topic in each journal for the following:

1. Tone of the writing: academic or more colloquial?
2. Intended audience: practitioners, researchers, administrators, or another group?
3. Bibliographic (citation) style
4. “Scholarliness” or rigor of the research component

Can you draw any conclusions about the journals you examined? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each?

* n.b.: I encourage you to select articles that will be relevant to your final project.

**consult your course reading list for likely journal titles.

Final Project (40%)

The final project will have a mandatory written and an optional live presentation component. If you wish to make a presentation, 15/40 points of your grade will be based on an evaluation of your presentation.

SELECT ONE:

Topical Term Paper

You will prepare a 15-20 page paper about a topic related to some aspect of academic libraries and/or librarianship. Though the topic may be of your choosing I will need to be notified and approve it by 7/6. This paper should be a scholarly effort; monographs, scholarly journals, and conference proceedings (as appropriate) should constitute the majority of source material.

Academic Library Portfolio

Select an academic library—university, college, community college, or other—and conduct a comprehensive and detailed study of its operations. Your portfolio should include information about the library's organizational structure, services, policies, consortial arrangements, and other information of interest. This option will require you to interview library staff, observe services and activities, and research institutional documents. I will be glad to assist with introductions to library staff at your library of interest.

Research Proposal

Between 50-60% of academic librarians in the United States have faculty status. Most of these individuals, in pursuit of tenure and promotion, will need to conduct research for publication. Because the summer session (or any semester, really) is not long enough to fully form and complete a research project, you may construct a proposal for a research project that interests you. Your proposal should include:

- An introduction and statement of the problem
- A brief review of the relevant literature
- A description of the prospective method: what type of research approach would you take in order to find the answers you seek?
- A description of next steps, including the venue in which you anticipate presenting your completed research—in a specific journal, at a specific conference, or elsewhere.

Grant Proposal

Many academic librarians are also involved in writing and administering grants. If you'd like, you may submit a grant proposal to satisfy this assignment. To accomplish this, locate a grant-making organization and specific grant program that would be suitable for the project you have in mind. Follow the instructions as established for the grant program.