



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
School of Information

LIS5576 – INFORMATION NEEDS OF ADULTS

SECTION(S)

TERM 20XX, COURSE MEETING DAY/TIME, COURSE MEETING LOCATION

MODE OF INSTRUCTION: Online (Synchronous)

Students all meet with instructor for class weekly, synchronously, using a multi-media conferencing system such as Collaborate, at a specific class time indicated in the University's course schedule for each semester. Additional asynchronous interactions among students and with instructor will be required, as indicated below in course evaluation and assessments, to complete the course.

Instructor:

Email:

Office:

Phone:

Course Location/Website:

Office Hours (in office, online or via phone):

Teaching Assistant:

Email:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An examination of the nature and societal aspects of adult information needs, sources, and uses. Focuses on fiction and non-fiction genres; formal, popular, and alternative information sources; and the cultural values of entertainment and information, as well as the relationship between the two. Examines print, electronic, and mass-media sources and uses within their social contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe and analyze multiple adult information practices, including recreational reading, consumption of popular- and mass-culture information sources, and use of online information services.
2. Discuss the roles of taste, preferences, and social contexts in adult information needs, sources, and uses.
3. Analyze one or more adult recreational or informational reading genre in depth.
4. Evaluate the informational content of recreational reading and information genres.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbooks:

- Alan Jacobs. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-19-974749-8.

- Andrew Piper. *Book Was There: Reading in Electronic Times*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2012. (3 editions: cloth, paper, e-book; any is acceptable).
- Cynthia Orr & Diana Tixier Herald, Editors. *Genreflecting: A Guide to Popular Reading Interests*, Seventh Edition. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited, 2013. ISBN 978-1-59884-840-3.

For other readings, you may choose your own titles within the week's genre.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Reading Journals. One of the most important parts of this class is your ongoing record of your reading experiences in your Reading Journal, where you are to write about your observations and reflections on required readings and other class activities.

Reading Genre Presentations. Groups will be formed for each of the Reading Genres (and other activities) covered beginning in week 6. Each group will prepare materials that will be presented to the class as a whole before the class discussion on their genre. These materials should be thought of as "readers' advisory" type materials that are intended to provide an overview to the genre and introduce the genre to readers who are unfamiliar with it. During the class session for a genre, the group that prepared the materials for that genre will facilitate class discussions on issues raised by the genre, raising questions for discussion and drawing upon what others have learned from reading in this area. Each member of a group must each prepare a one page handout, which may be double-sided, but no more than a single sheet.

Final Project. Your final project should be designed with your own particular interests in mind; specifics, including topic, format, and other requirements will be customized and worked out in consultation with the instructor. Possible approaches to the final project might include:

- An academic paper on a topic related to the information needs of adults.
- A proposal for developing a project for a specific adult population.
- An extensive set of readers' advisory materials for a specific genre.

PLEASE NOTE that these three options are just a very limited sub-set of possible topics and approaches. You should choose your topic to reflect your own interests and passions. Creativity is highly encouraged; the only requirement is that your topic be demonstrably related to adults' information needs/interests/use/etc. There is a lot of latitude for topics for the final project. We will discuss more specific possibilities in class, but please think of this as an opportunity to spend time with a topic you are especially interested in, and to work on skills you want to develop further.

GRADE CALCULATION:

Reading Journals	50pts
Genre Presentation	25pts
<u>Final Paper</u>	<u>25pts</u>
TOTAL	100pts

GRADING SCALE:

A	93 - 100	C	73 – 76
A-	90 – 92	C-	70 – 72
B+	87 – 89	D+	67 – 69
B	83 – 86	D	63 – 66
B-	80 – 82	D-	60 – 62
C+	77 – 79	F	0 – 59

COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK	TOPICS TO BE COVERED
1	Course Overview
2	Reading, Information, Culture & Taste I
3	Reading, Information, Culture & Taste II
4	Reading, Information, Culture & Taste III
5	Information & Genre Fiction: Romance
6	Information & Genre Fiction: Horror
7	Information & Genre Fiction: Science Fiction & Fantasy
8	Information & Genre Fiction: Crime & Adventure
9	Information & Genre Fiction: Other Genres
10	Information & Non-Fiction Genres: Travel Writing & Television
11	Information & Non-Fiction Genres: Medicine, Health, Self-Help & Inspirational Writing
12	Information & Non-Fiction Genres: Food Writing & Television
13	Information & Non-Fiction Genres: Tabloids, Television & Radio News & Talk and Other News Sources
14	Information & Non-Fiction Genres: Other Non-Fiction Genres
15	Information & Non-Fiction Genres: Other Non-Fiction Genres
16	Finals Week (no exam)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**University Attendance Policy:**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy:

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the

process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at [http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy.](http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy))

Plagiarism

Plagiarism of any type, including material from Internet sources, will not be tolerated. Cases of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating will be investigated & pursued vigorously according to departmental and (if needed) university procedures. Before submitting any work for this class, please read the "Academic Honor System" in its entirety (see link above) and ask me to clarify any of its expectations that you do not understand.

Americans With Disabilities Act:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
- (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

SCHOOL OR DISCIPLINARY POLICIES:

Copyright Statement

Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with, and for the duration of, the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated

further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the *Technology, Education, And Copyright Harmonization* (TEACH) Act (refer to the 3/7/2001 TEACH Act at www.copyright.gov/legislation/archive/).

Sexual Harassment Policy

It is the policy of the University that its employees and students neither commit nor condone sexual harassment in any form. http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/graduate/information/university_notices/

iSchool Hardware and Software Requirements

A list of all hardware and software requirements for students participating in the School of Information (iSchool) courses can be found at the following location:

<http://ischool.cci.fsu.edu/academics/online/requirements/>

Student Eligibility for an Incomplete Grade

Incomplete (“I”) grades will not be assigned, except in the case of exceptional unforeseen circumstances that occur within the last three weeks of the semester and your work has otherwise been satisfactory (C average).