



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
School of Information

LIS5661: Government Information (3 credits)

Sections(s)

**Term 20XX, course meeting
day/time/location**

Mode of Instruction: online

"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 (e.g., discussion forums) among students and with instructor may also be required to complete the course."

Instructor: L. Mon

Email:

Office:

Phone:

Course Location/Website:

Office Hours:

Teaching Assistant:

TA Email:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to government information sources and research, with a primary focus on U.S. government information. Students will learn about the structure of government and the dissemination of government information resources to the public, including techniques for locating and using government information sources.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Locate and use U.S. federal government information sources from the executive, judicial and legislative branches
2. Locate and use resources within the federal depository library system
3. Discuss issues in government information on the national, state, local and international levels
4. Compile research using specialized government information research techniques including census research, government statistical research, and legislative history

COURSE MATERIALS:

Reading materials will be assigned and will be available online.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Government Search Assignments (5 x 40 points each = 200 points):

The Government Search Assignment is a series of search exercises designed to assist you in learning to locate resources with which to build your Government Documents Story. For each of five topics you will be given an exercise of a set of questions to answer by searching and locating different types of government information and publications. Search assignments will be made available as a link from the course site after the week's lecture covering the material has been completed.

Government Observation Assignment (200 points):

In this assignment, you will observe a city, state or federal government legislative session in action and write a brief report of what you observed and learned (this can be at the state, federal, or municipal level, but cannot be below the municipal level or non-government; this should be a legislative branch and not executive branch session). Include with your report a citation to any government documents that were mentioned in the session or produced as a result, and where those documents would be found. Your report should be at least 2 full pages, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font. You will post your report to the class site and will also have an opportunity to discuss your observations with the class.

"Government Documents Story" Final Paper (300 points):

Write a paper in the form of a professional journal article of the type that might be published in DttP: Documents to the People which tells the story of an issue or situation through government documents (such as proposed bills, hearings, reports, court decisions.) Through the lens of government information sources, you'll trace what happened and how information was presented to the public about it. Your topic should be "big enough" to provide at least 10 cited government documents for your discussion and your chronology of key government. Examples of possible topics: FirstGov, the U.S. government's search engine/portal site; Hurricane Katrina; the Space Shuttle Columbia; the removal of the Cherokee on the Trail of Tears; basically, any recent or historic topic on the U.S. national level that is of interest to you and of sufficient scope to offer enough different kinds of government documents for your analysis. Your report should be at least 7 full pages, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, and should include a chronological table of the "top ten" government documents discussed (those most important to your story) as well as full citations to all sources used at the end of your paper. Your paper will be shared on the class site, and you will receive constructive feedback from other class members.

Reviewer Feedback (200 points):

Review two other student papers assigned to you and give constructive feedback for each one to help your colleagues prepare these articles for submission to a professional journal. What did you find interesting about the article? What did you find you wanted more information about to better understand? What other comments or suggestions do you have for improving the article?

Participation in Discussions (10x 10 points each = 100 points):

Participate in class discussions by posting at least once each week in a discussion thread for 10 out of 15 weeks of class. You don't have to respond to every thread or post, but you do have to post at least once in the weekly discussions to meet the requirement for that week.

GRADE CALCULATION:

Your final grade will be based on the following activities and point values:

200	Search Exercises
200	Government Observation
300	Government Documents Story
200	Reviewer Feedback
<u>100</u>	<u>Discussion postings</u>
1000	TOTAL

GRADING SCALE:

Your final letter grade will be determined as follows:

A 930-1000
A- 900-929
B+ 870-899
B 830-869
B- 800-829
C+ 770-799
C 730-769
C- 700-729
D+ 670-699
D 630-669
D- 600-629
F 0-599

COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK	TOPICS TO BE COVERED
1	The Constitution and The Federal Depository System Pt 1
2	The Federal Depository System Pt 2
3	Congress – Legislative Branch
4	The President – Executive Branch Pt 1
5	Federal Agencies – Executive Branch Pt 2
6	The Census & Statistics
7	Law – Judicial Branch
8	FOIA and Declassified Documents
9	Science
10	Intellectual Property
11	Business
12	State & Local Government
13	International Government
14	E-Government
15	The Future
16	Finals Week

School and University 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.

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/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>)

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
<https://dos.fsu.edu/sdrc/>

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 advance notice."

