

SILS - INLS 707 Government Information
Fall 2013 (August 21 – December 4)
Wednesdays, 6-8:45pm, Davis Library Lab #246

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Goals:

- To discuss how government information is collected, organized and used in a library or information setting
- To acquaint future librarians and information specialists with the variety of government information formats
- To demonstrate the popular and research value of government information

Class Schedule (Readings will be assigned throughout the course & Assessments and other Ungraded assignments will be given during some class periods, particularly the Data weeks and may not be noted below):

August 21

Logistics / Overview / Tour of Docs Collection / In-class assessment
Weekly Government in the News Assignment

August 28

Searching for Government Information – print and electronic / Discuss Federal Project

September 4

Legislative Branch / Executive Branch
Worksheet Assignment 1

September 11

Judicial Branch / Administrative Law / Patents
Topic for Federal Project Due

September 18

Science / Technology / Grey Literature
Worksheet Assignment 2 / Worksheet Assignment 1 Due

September 25

State and Local Government Information
Two Annotations Due

October 2

United Nations
Worksheet Assignment 3 / Worksheet Assignment 2 Due

October 9

IGO's / NGO's / Foreign Government Information
International Evaluation Project

October 16 – NO CLASS – FALL BREAK - Federal Project Due by 5:00pm on 10/16/13

October 23 – NO CLASS (Depository Library Conference)

Out of Class Assignment TBA + Work on Evaluation Project

October 30

Government Data – Part 1

Worksheet Assignment 3 Due / Evaluation Project Topic Due

November 6

Government Data – Part 2

Worksheet Assignment 4

November 13

Government Data – Part 3

November 20

Government Data – Part 4

Worksheet Assignment 5 / Worksheet Assignment 4 Due

November 27 – NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

December 4

Class Members 5 minute Oral Presentation of International Evaluation Project

Government Data – Part 5

Future of Government Information – Comparison of GODORT Principles of Government Information

Worksheet Assignment 5 Due

December 9

Written 10-15 page Evaluation Project Due by 7:00pm

SAKAI: We will have a class page set-up in Sakai and that is where the assigned readings, the worksheet assignments, the Project Description pages and previous year's samples will be located. The assessments and ungraded assignments will be handed out in class.

LISTSERV: I will create a listserv for me to communicate to you as well as for you to ask questions about assignments or other class issues. This listserv is not a forum for discussion – that will take place in class.

Textbook – No Textbook is required. I will draw on 5 textbooks from the 1960's to the 2000's as well as a few other materials for the lectures. If you acquire a job in government information, I will be happy to advise you as to a text and other materials that will help, which can vary widely depending on the job.

Evaluation / Grading Assignments:

- ❖ Class attendance and participation – 10 pts.

I expect you to attend class, turn in ungraded and graded assignments, read any assigned readings, and contribute to the weekly conversations, particularly the Government in the News piece of class. If you cannot, I expect notice beforehand or a very good explanation shortly thereafter.

- ❖ Worksheet Assignments – 50 pts.

Each assignment is worth 10 pts. You will have at least 2 weeks to complete each worksheet. Please e-mail me the answers as a Word attachment before 6pm on the class night it is due. If you have difficulty with e-mail, you may hand in a printed copy during the class.

- ❖ Federal Project – 20 pts.

You will choose a topic for which to create an Annotated Bibliography of United States Federal Government information. More details will be provided in class.

- ❖ International Evaluation Project – 20 pts.

You will evaluate both the design of and content of an International Intergovernmental Agency web site of your choice. You will give a 5 minute oral presentation the last day of class. You will turn in a 10-15 page written paper on the “exam” date for the class. More details will be provided in class.

- ❖ SILS Grading Policy

H - Clear excellence

P - Entirely satisfactory

L - Low passing

F - Failed

IN - Work incomplete

- ❖ Honor Code Policy

"The UNC Honor Code prohibits giving or receiving unauthorized aid in the completion of assignments. Students are strongly encouraged to cooperate and assist one another and share insights and respective expertise in this course. I expect that you will acknowledge the support you receive from your colleagues (this may be done in acknowledgements at the end of assignments or projects). It is crucial, however, that in every case where you use the actual written words of others, that these be properly quoted and cited. When you build arguments upon the ideas of others, the originators of those ideas should also be cited."

Communication with me:

I do not have formal office hours, but you may reach me as follows:

919-962-1151 (Reference Desk – then ask for me or ext. 307)

blr@email.unc.edu (put INLS 707 in Subject Line)

919-484-2109 (Home – weekdays after 6pm and before 9pm and weekends after 10am and before 9pm)

Stop by in person – (ask for me at the Reference Desk and identify yourself as a class member). If I am available (not in meetings, on the reference desk etc.), I will be happy to give you 15 minutes or less of non-scheduled time, but if you need more time, then we can set a mutually convenient follow-up appointment.