Course Profile: Introduction to the Information Profession

Course Number: INF 6010

Credits: 3

Prerequisite(s): None
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Rationale for Inclusion in Curriculum:

An overview of librarianship and information science is essential to providing the student with an understanding and appreciation of the nature and functions of the profession(s) he/she is about to enter. This course assists in the development of a conceptual framework of the role of libraries and information centers (as well as librarians and information providers) in society, past, present, and future, and promotes a personal philosophy of professional librarianship. Lectures, discussions and assignments center on the work, concerns, and problems affecting all areas of librarianship / information work, as well as the impact of technology, professionalism, intellectual freedom, ethics, and current issues on the field. An introduction to communication and information theory set the stage for exploration of ways in which the library achieves its goals of maximizing the social utility of the graphic record.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate acquaintance with the philosophical principles of the profession(s).
2. Use the terminology and vocabulary of the profession(s).
3. Analyze the library literature and utilize it for additional study.
4. Identify the effects of social, demographic, and technological factors on the origins, purposes, and functions of various types of libraries and information centers.
5. Identify the major types of, functions within, and resources of, libraries, archives, and information centers.
6. List and describe issues and challenges confronting the profession(s).
7. Understand the professional's relationships within society, institutions, and professional associations.
8. Identify personal career goals and opportunities.

Content:

The Library in Society; Library History; Types of Libraries; Nature of Information and Its Organization/Retrieval; Education of Information Professionals; Professional Concerns; Emerging Technologies; Career Development.

Course Methodology:

A mix of lectures, readings, class discussions, videos, group and individual presentations, guest speakers and, where appropriate, tours of library and information facilities. Course may be webcentric or fully online.

Bases for Evaluation of Student Performance:

Papers; oral presentations; class attendance and participation; assessment activities.

Text: To be selected by lead instructor in consultation with other instructors

Approved: 1/12
Updated: 8/13