

FALL 2016 TERM

1. Course Information:

Name and number: LIS9733: Multilingual Information Access

Course website: <http://faculty.fims.uwo.ca/rubin/lis9733/default.aspx> (accessible to enrolled students)

Location: Classes: Room 293, North Campus Building, Tuesdays, 9:00- 11:50 a.m.

2. Instructor Information:

Prof. Victoria Rubin, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Faculty of Information and Media Studies

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<http://publish.uwo.ca/~vrubin/>

3. Course Description:

Introduction to multilingual information presentation, access, use, and dissemination in contemporary electronic environments and library settings. Critical assessment of linguistically complex electronic environments and roles of multilingual resources.

Emphasis on linguistic, societal, and technological issues in the global information access context. Overview of best multilingual and cross-lingual practices.

Problem Statement

“The global information society has radically changed the way in which knowledge is acquired, disseminated and exchanged. Users of internationally distributed networks need to be able to find, retrieve and understand relevant information in whatever language and form it may have been stored” (Peters & Sheridan 2000, p. 60). Since language has “the potential to balkanize the information space”, it is important to continue providing “seamless access to the information needed for commerce, security, and society” (Oard 2009, p. 13).

Objectives:

1. To gain an appreciation for a variety of world languages and creative solutions to challenges in multilingual contemporary electronic environments.
2. To analyze the research literature and best practices of facilitating access across languages.
3. To critically evaluate the technical components of multilingual information presentation, use, and dissemination.

Course Content:

- Introduction: Multilingual Information Access
- Linguistic Aspects
 - Languages of the world (language families, scripts, etc.)
 - Bilingualism and multilingualism, foreign language acquisition
 - Translations, transliterations, and encoding
- Societal Aspects
 - Multilingual cultures and societies
 - Globalization, electronic access, ethics and language barriers
 - Regional peculiarities: Canada, Russia, India, etc.
- Technological Aspects
 - Multilingual tools and utilities (machine translation, language identification, etc.)
 - Access to multilingual web resources
 - Cross-lingual searching, web browsing, and information-seeking
- Library and Information Science Context
 - Multilingual thesauri and terminology banks
 - Challenges of multilingual collections
 - International bibliographic data and formats AND
- Overview: Multilingual information access, use, and dissemination

Sample Readings

- Oard DW. 2009. Multilingual Information Access. In *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*, ed. MJ Bates, MN Maack: Taylor & Francis
- Peters C, Sheridan P. 2000. Multilingual Information Access. In *Lectures on Information Retrieval*, ed. M Agosti, F Crestani, G Pasi, pp. 60-90: Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg

4. Course Materials:

There is **no required textbook** for the course. Readings will be assigned from a selection of books and articles on reserve in the Graduate Resource Centre and on the course website. Practical assignments can be done using the tools available in the Graduate Resource Centre.

Electronic Resources and Communications:

The **course website** (<http://faculty.fims.uwo.ca/rubin/lis9733>) will contain selected course materials such as this syllabus, select readings, and classroom handouts. The handouts will be posted prior to each lecture in the course of the term. Please visit the web-site before each lecture to **print the corresponding handout and bring it to class with you**. Students will **not** be able to modify these materials electronically. There will be **no** electronic submissions of assignments via this website.

Several other electronic resources are available at the GRC Electronic Resources via FIMS Intranet (http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/grc/electronic_resources.htm).

The **course listserv** (fims-lis-9733@uwo.ca) is set up for electronic communications with the whole class (including the Instructor). Any sent messages will arrive to you regular UWO e-mail inbox. The Instructors will also use the listserv for announcements.

Class Policies:

Class **attendance** is mandatory. Marks may be deducted for late arrivals or unexcused missed classes, etc. Extra marks are not awarded for attending tutorials.

Academic accommodation will be made only on medical or compassionate grounds and for religious holidays. For religious holiday accommodation, the student must notify the Instructor at least one week in advance (please check all class dates and assignment deadlines and notify us as soon as possible if there is any conflict).

Laptops, cell phones, and other hand-held electronic devices are permitted in the classroom, provided that you **do not disturb** your colleagues or disrupt the class. Students are **not** permitted to carry on a cell phone conversation in the classroom. If you anticipate an important call, please make appropriate arrangements (e.g., set the phone to vibrate, sit close by the door, leave the room with minimum disturbance to the class).

5. Methods of Evaluation:

• Critical Digests	2 @ 10% each	20 %
• Associated Discussion	2 @ 5% each	10 %
• Presentation		15%
• Comparative Poster		15%
• Cumulative Paper		30%
• Participation		10 %

6. Statement on Academic Offences:

Statement on Academic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Plagiarism: In accordance with policy at UWO, students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in Section 10 of the Western Graduate Calendar at www.uwo.ca/grad/calendar.htm).

7. Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.