

WINTER 2017 TERM

1. Course Information:

Name and number: LIS9202 THESAURUS CONSTRUCTION AND METADATA

Informational website: <http://victoriarubin.fims.uwo.ca/teaching/> (accessible to all)

Course website: <http://courses.fims.uwo.ca/rubin/9202/> (accessible to enrolled students)

Location: FIMS & Nursing Building, Room 4130

Classes: Mondays, 9:00- 11:50 a.m.

2. Instructor Information:

Prof. Victoria Rubin, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Faculty of Information and Media Studies

Office: FIMS & Nursing Building, Room 4046

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Website (*with a video self-introduction*): <http://victoriarubin.fims.uwo.ca/about/>

3. Course Description:

Theory and practice in indexing and in constructing subject retrieval languages in thesaurus form. Distinguishing between controlled and natural language indexing, and between subject headings and index terms. Applying facet analysis to thesaurus construction. Selected topics in the theory of subject analysis. A new significant component of the course will overview current metadata and linked data initiatives and discuss how various metadata standards support subject access.

Prerequisites: MLIS 9002

Program Content Areas: Information Organization, Curation and Access

Course Objectives:

1. To teach students how to analyse the subject of a document, and to translate that expression into a suitable set of index terms.
2. To expand students' knowledge of the structure and use of indexing, the principles of thesaurus construction and theoretical topics in subject analysis.
3. To provide students with an opportunity to practice indexing and thesaurus construction skills.

Relationship to the Goals and Objectives of the MLIS Program

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. describe and provide access to recorded information using techniques of indexing and thesaurus construction (from Goal 2, Obj. 1c);
2. use appropriate methods and technologies to analyse, design, implement, and evaluate subject access systems (from Goal 2, Obj. 1e).

Course Content:

I. Thesaurus Construction

1. Introduction. Thesaurus: Definitions. Functions. Subject access & retrieval tools. ERIC Thesaurus.
2. Thesaurus: Types, formats & elements. Building thesauri: vocabulary collection and term extraction
3. Building thesauri: facets. Facet analysis. Thesaurus software.
4. Building thesauri: hierarchal relations. Subject headings & index terms
5. Building thesauri: equivalence and associative relations. Controlled & natural language indexes.
6. Knowledge Organization trends. Powering Web-Search Systems
7. Practical workshop.

Sample Readings (Part I)

- Ryan, C. (2014) *Thesaurus construction guidelines: An introduction to thesauri and guidelines on their construction*. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy and National Library of Ireland. ISSN: 2009-6461. DOI: 10.3318/DRI.2014.1
- Shiri, A. (2012). *Powering Search: the Role of Thesauri in New Information Environments*. Medford, NJ: Published on behalf of the American Society for Information Science and Technology by Information Today.

II. Metadata

8. Metadata: Definitions. Functions. Typologies. Dublin Core.
9. Metadata: Encoding standards. Practical issues.
10. Metadata for: Governmental Resources, Art & Architecture Works, Educational Materials, Geographic Resources. Case studies.

Sample Readings (Part II)

- *Introduction to Metadata*. (2016) Baca, M., editor. The Getty Research Institute. Los Angeles.
- Pomerantz, J. (2015). *Metadata*. MIT Press. Cambridge, Massachusetts.

III. Linked Data.

11. What's beyond metadata? Semantic Web. Linked Data. Web of Data.
12. "Library Linked Data in the Cloud" by OCLC.
13. Future of Metadata. Reflections on inter-connectedness.

Sample Readings (Part III)

- Godby, C. J., Wang, S., Mixer, J. K. (2015) *Library Linked Data in the Cloud: OCLC's Experiments with New Models of Resource Description*. In the Semantic Web: Tehory and Technology Series. Morgan & Claypool.

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://courses.fims.uwo.ca/rubin/9202/>) 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-9202@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:

Students will complete **four (4) reports** and present in the practical workshop. **Report 2** will have 5 sub-components that need to be accomplished and submitted in the course of 5-6 weeks.

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| • Report 1 (Analysis of ERIC indexing terms) | 15 % |
| • Report 2 (Mini-thesaurus construction) | 50 % (total) |
| <i>See sub-component below:</i> | |
| Part 2.1. Collection of complex subject descriptions. | 5 % |
| Part 2.2. Categorization of subject area by facets. | 10 % |
| Part 2.3. Demonstration of hierarchies in subject area. | 7.5% |
| Part 2.4. Demonstration of relations in subject area. | 7.5% |
| Part 2.5. Report & presentation in the workshop. | 20 % |
| • Report 3 (Metadata analysis) | 15 % |
| • Report 4 (Reflection) | 10 % |
| • 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.