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
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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
4. Building thesauri: hierarchical relations. Subject headings & index terms
7. Practical workshop.
Sample Readings (Part I)


II. Metadata


Sample Readings (Part II)


III. Linked Data.

12. “Library Linked Data in the Cloud” by OCLC.

Sample Readings (Part III)


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/](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](http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/grc/electronic_resources.htm)).

The course listserv ([fims-lis-9202@uwo.ca](mailto: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.

- Report 1 (Analysis of ERIC indexing terms) 15 %
- Report 2 (Mini-thesaurus construction) 50 % (total)

  See sub-component below:

  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.