



École des sciences de l'information
School of Information Studies

ISI 5164 A

FALL 2013, LUN/MON 17:30 – 20:30 DMS 9143

COURSE OUTLINE

Professor: Dr. Heather Morrison
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Office hours: usually available before / after class or e-mail for appointment

Course description

Bibliographic control and the use of government publications and their organization, with an emphasis on on-line government information, are examined in the context of publishing and distribution policies and practices at the federal, provincial and municipal levels in Canada and the United States. Comparisons with foreign and intergovernmental sources of information. (*Prerequisite: ISI5105*)

Course objectives and learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the role of library and information professionals in providing reference and instructional assistance in locating and interpreting government policy.
- Understand the role of library and information professionals in collecting, preserving, and making accessible government policy and related documentation.
- Understand the importance of advocacy for good practices relating to the collection and making accessible of government policy and to develop strategies for advocacy.
- Understand the impact of select government policies on library and information work, including copyright and privacy legislation.
- Understand the role of library and information professionals in shaping good government policy, both directly through advocacy and by serving as a resource for community engagement.
- Demonstrate oral and written communication skills necessary for group work, collaborations and professional level presentations.

Language of instruction

English

Students may submit their work in either English or French in accordance with the University of Ottawa's Regulation on Bilingualism: <http://web5.uottawa.ca/admingov/bilingualism.html>

Teaching methods

Lecture, seminar / discussion, guest speakers, student presentations.

Evaluation methods and distribution of grades

Several of the assignments may be best approached as a lead-up to the final paper, i.e. the term paper outline, information brief, presentation, and term paper can all be on a single topic. Students may choose to work with different topics if preferred. Any of the assignments can be completed in either English or French.

1. Research question & list of government resources for a topic of the student's choice. 1 – 2 pages. Due: Sept 16. (5%).
2. Advocacy brief for library services relating to government policy (e.g. need for federal government libraries or Library and Archives Canada). 1 page. In the style of a letter, e-mail, blogpost, or newsletter article. Students are encouraged to submit their article to an appropriate venue. Handout (with sample) to follow. Due: Sept 30. (15%)
3. Term paper outline and bibliography. 1-2 pages. Due: Oct. 28. (5%)
4. Information brief on government policy topic or finding aid to government publications in a particular department. 1 – 2 pages, single spaced if text. Students are encouraged to develop a web-based tool (e.g. a blogpost or widget) reflecting approximately the amount of work involved in writing a 1-2 page paper. Handout (with sample) to follow. Due: Nov. 11. (15%.)
5. Presentation (seminar-style). Your presentation should demonstrate knowledge of the topic, presentation skills and ability to handle questions. You will select 1-2 readings for the class that week, introduce the topic (15-20 minutes), and guide discussion (20-30 minutes). Due: Nov. 18 or 25. (25%).
6. Term paper. 10 – 12 pages, double spaced. Due last class. (35%).

Required and recommended readings

TBA. A list of articles and reports and resources will be made available no later than the week before the class where content is covered. As an open access advocate I aim to select readings that are freely available online to the greatest extent possible. My philosophy is that senior masters level students should be researching and reading extensively independently; students are expected to select the class readings for their seminar-style presentations in November. Following are the two readings for the

second class which will provide an introduction to the theoretical approach and an indication of the course workload.

Birdsall, W.F. Libraries, communication rights, and access in a digital world. In: Adams, K. & W.F. Birdsall (eds), Access to information in a digital world. Canadian Library Association, 2004., p. 151-171. PDF will be provided to students for free, thanks to CLA.

Trosow, Samuel E. A holistic model of information policy. Feliciter 56:2, March 2010.
<http://samtrosow.ca/images/trosow-infopolicy-feliciter.pdf>

Academic Regulations

Please consult the University of Ottawa’s regulations on:

- **Academic Fraud:** <http://web5.uottawa.ca/admingov/regulations.html#r72>
- **Plagiarism:** <http://www.uottawa.ca/plagiarism.pdf>
- **Examinations & Grading:** <http://www.grad.uottawa.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=1807&msld=6>

Calendar of activities and evaluations

Date	Activity	Assignment(s) Due	Weight
Sept 9	Overview		
Sept 16	<p>Guest speaker: Cabot Yu, Citizenship and Immigration Canada. <i>Why is this librarian who works for the government not in the library?</i></p> <p>Class discussion based on assignment.</p> <p>Readings: Trosow, S. , Birdsall, W.</p>	Research question and list of government resources for topic of your choice.	5%
Sept 23	<p>Guest speaker: Barbara Pilek, Library of Parliament – <i>The embedded librarian model, and some tips for those who might like to work for the Library of Parliament someday.</i></p> <p>Development and dissemination of government policy (laws & regulations)</p>		
Sept 30	Government information policy: what is created, collected, and shared, and how the work gets done.	Advocacy brief.	15%

	Advocacy.		
Oct 7	Government information policy, communication policy, and government workers.		
Oct 14	Thanksgiving – no class		
Oct 21	Open Access Week: Open access policy.		
Oct 28	Guest speaker: Catherine Macgoveran, University of Ottawa Library: <i>Wrangling government data</i> .	Term paper outline & bibliography	5%
Nov 4	Open government: new era of democracy and accountability, or Orwellian nightmare?		
Nov 11	Copyright, licensing & preservation.	Information brief or finding aid	15%
Nov 18	Class-led seminars.	Presentation / seminar (Nov. 18 or 25)	
Nov 25	Class-led seminars.	Presentation / seminar (Nov. 18 or 25)	25%
Dec 2	Emerging issues in information policy and government publications.	Final paper	35%