

Syllabus

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| Course Title: | Special Topics: Future of Libraries |
| Course Credits: | 3 credits |
| Instructor: | Jenna Kammer |
| Instructor Email: | jkammer@nmsu.edu |
| Instructor Office Location/Hours: | Second Life, Cybrary City, Coordinates: 51 82 25 |

NMSU-A Mission Statement

The mission of the New Mexico State University at Alamogordo is to provide quality learning opportunities for individuals in the diverse community we serve.

Introduction

Welcome to The Future of Libraries! In this class, we will be discussing the role of the library in society historically, presently and how it is projected to be in the future. We will discuss current issues in libraries and how libraries can keep up with emerging technologies and societal changes. We will work with several new technological tools in this class and apply those to use in the library as well. I hope you will walk away from this course with a broader vision of library and information centers. If you approach this class with a willingness to learn, participate and try new things, you are guaranteed of success.

Course Description and Objectives

The future of libraries has been predicted throughout history. This class will explore the history and future of library services, resources and technology as predicted by other scholars and researchers in the field. Upon completion of the course, the student will have a greater understanding of traditional and emerging issues in libraries. The student will also gain competency with practical tools to use in a library setting.

Course Competencies

1. Understand the history, varieties, and ethical aspects facing libraries in the 21st century.
2. Understand the impact of emerging technologies and implement them.
3. Use critical thinking skills to analyze and forecast future trends and challenges.

Course Length and Format

This 16 week course is divided into 13 units with approximately 10 hours required each week to successfully complete the course. *To succeed in this course, it is extremely important that you have at least the minimum amount of time to devote to this class.*

Course Delivery

The content of this course will be delivered electronically via WebCt, utilizing different learning tools such as written lectures, videocasts, slideshows and image captures. A very small portion of this class will also meet in Second Life, a virtual world. We will also develop a class wiki where we will post our assignments and our top discussions.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this class.

Texts

There are no required texts for this course. The readings will be distributed as a series of articles, blog entries, and presentations in relationship to each unit.

Course Rules

Attendance

This is an online course so attendance is at your convenience. It is expected that you submit work on time and participate in weekly discussions.

Withdrawals

You are responsible for dropping yourself from this course. I do not automatically drop students.

Incompletes

Incompletes are given only in special circumstances. To receive an incomplete, you must have successfully passed the first half of the course and must be unable to complete the second half of the course due to illness or family crisis to be determined at my discretion.

Late Work

Late work will be penalized 5 points per day of what you would have received had you submitted it on time.

Please contact me IN ADVANCE if you foresee a problem with submitting an assignment on time as I do accept early submissions for special circumstances.

Students with Disabilities

If you have (or believe you have) a disability and would benefit from classroom accommodation(s), please contact the Office of Special Student Services located in the George Fetting Student Services Building (phone: 439-3720).

If you have a condition that may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or that may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the instructor.

Computer Tech Support: <http://alamo.nmsu.edu/techcenter/>

The Learning Technology Center is there to help you with distance learning needs. They have Online Chat or you can call them for assistance, (505) 439-3847. Once you login to WebCT, The Learning Technology Center has created tutorials that will walk you through the different features. You will also find a very good Help option within the WebCT module. It is also HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you take an online WebCT tutorial, available here:
http://distance.nmsu.edu/webct_tutorials/index.html

Course Outline (tentative)

Unit 1: The History of the Future of Libraries

Unit 2: The New Library

Unit 3: The Building of the Future

Subunit: Second Life Virtual World

Unit 4: The Patron of the Future

Unit 5: The Staff of the Future

Unit 6: The Collection of the Future

Unit 7: Library Instruction of the Future

Unit 8: Library Ethical Issues of the Future
Unit 9: The Catalog of the Future
Unit 10: Classification of the Future
Unit 11: Searching in the Future
Unit 12: Library Website of the Future
Unit 13: Technology of the Future

Time Requirements

This course is designed to require an average of 9 hours per week for 16 weeks. This is an interactive course, that depends on your participation in the discussion forums. There are weekly discussion requirements as well as regular assignments. If you fall behind on the course, it will be very difficult to catch up. Your weekly participation is crucial for the enrichment of the entire class.

Coursework

Please use the Calendar module within WebCT to follow your assignments and due dates.

Readings. Each week there are reading assignments from journals, blogs or chapters in books. These reading assignments will be listed as part of the unit content.

Lectures. Each week there is a new lecture and/or presentation posted to the Lecture module in WebCT. You can find the Lecture module by clicking on 'Course Content' on the homepage. Each lecture will consist of background information as to the history of that week's unit and projections for the future.

Discussions. Each week we will have a discussion topic/exercise. You are required to post to the discussion forum after reading the lecture and readings. Your discussion post is an exercise in critical thinking, but is also a medium for you to share what you are learning with your classmates.

Our class discussions are a very important part of your grade. Each post is worth 10 points and each follow up post you make is worth 5 points. You must post once a week and you must post a response to someone else's post at least 4 times in the semester (maximum 20 points, 5 points max a week, though you are welcome to respond more!). Posts are due by Sunday, 11:59pm, to receive full credit. You will lose points on your post for being late (5 points per day, like assignments) and also at my discretion if I feel you are posting without evidence of reading the lecture or discussion. ALL POSTS must be at least a complete paragraph.

Please keep posts within the proper forum. For example, all WebCT or other technical questions should be posted under the topic 'Technical Support' and all introductions should be posted under the topic 'Introductions'.

Assignments. There are 4 assignments for this class and a final project. See the Calendar module for details and due dates.

1. Wiki

As a class, we will be developing a wiki. You will each have a spot on the wiki to post information about yourself, picture, links etc. You will receive points (5 points) for setting up your space on the wiki. You are also required to post 4 entries (5 points each) on your space that are reflections on the information or exercises that we discuss in class. Your space will be like a personal scrapbook or journal.

2. Interview

You will interview a library professional about their experience and view of the future of libraries. I will provide you with a short series of questions to ask and you will also come up with 3 of your own. You will write a transcript of the interview to be posted on our Future of Libraries wiki. You will need to get permission from your interviewee to publish their statements.

3. Second Life

If you are not already a resident of the virtual world, Second Life, you will create an avatar and explore what libraries are doing in Second Life. We will spend a week studying Second Life and getting oriented within it, as well as reading and evaluating literature written about libraries doing business in Second Life. Your assignment will consist of completing a scavenger hunt on Info International, one of the largest library islands. You will also write a response to your experience that we will post on our wiki.

4. Debate

The class will hold an asynchronous debate in our discussion forum on topics that we have discussed throughout the semester. You will be divided into groups and assigned a topic and position to defend. Your job will be to present well-researched arguments and defend your position.

5. Final Project

You will choose a topic (choose one: future of....books, electronic resources, library applications, user services, instruction, etc) and choose from the following mediums to discuss it:

1. Write a minimum of a 5 page paper
2. Create a detailed videocast, podcast or slideshow
3. Develop a website, wiki or blog

More information describing what needs to be included in this project will be delivered via the assignment dropbox when we are ready to begin working on it.

Exams. There are no exams in this class.

Grading Criteria

Students will be graded on a point basis using the point totals for assignments below:

Participation: 180 points -- 160 points (10 points/week) for discussion + 20 points (5 points/week) for follow up posts

Wiki: 25 points

Interview: 25 points

Second Life: 25 points

Debate: 25 points

Final Project: 100 points

380 points total

EXTRA CREDIT: I love to give extra credit opportunities. Expect several extra credit opportunities throughout the semester ranging from 1-5 points each. These opportunities will be posted in the discussion forum.

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%