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MLIB 398.01: Careers in Academic Librarianship - Internship

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**MLIB 398: Careers in Academic Librarianship (3 cr. Internship)
Spring Semester 2013**

Professors

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Course Reserve password: library

Course Description:

Careers in Academic Librarianship is designed to introduce students to the academic field of library and information science. Undergraduate students interested in graduate studies in library science will benefit from the academic discussions and practical experience of an internship in the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library. Students in this course will participate weekly in a 3-hr discussion-based seminar (including guest lectures highlighting various library career tracks) in addition to 6 additional on-site internship hours.

Course Objectives:

- Explore and discuss the field of librarianship and careers served by librarians
- Investigate graduate programs offering MLIS degrees and the application procedure as well as available funding at the state, national and international levels
- Explore and discuss the structure of an academic library and the various roles within this structure
- Participate in work experience that reflects academic library employment including reference and instruction, collection development, committee work, etc.
- Find an opportunity to design/develop a particular library project based on individual interest/career direction (potential projects could include creating library guides, performing collection analyses, curating an exhibit, designing a library program, etc.)
- Participate in professional activities by attending the Montana Library Association annual conference accompanied by the course instructor(s)

Text:

There is no required text for this internship, but articles and films may be assigned throughout the semester and will be made available on the course reserve site.

Hours:

Weekly 3-hr seminar (time TBD) with instructors and 6 weekly working/observing hours

Assignments:

Weekly Journal Reflections (20 points): Maintain a journal capturing your thoughts, observations, comments and further questions regarding discussions, projects and readings. **Due every Friday by 5pm.**

Graduate School Analysis (10 points): Research and identify the top three Library and Information Science graduate schools according to your interests and career goals. Write a 2-3 page analysis explaining why these schools are your top choices (you may include information regarding their focus, faculty, curriculum, employment rates, etc.). **Due March 15 by 5pm.**

Library Project (30 points): In collaboration with the instructors, design and complete a project in an area of your choosing (i.e., Library Web Guide, Collection Policy, Service Improvement, Instruction, Curating an exhibit, etc.). **Due April 30 by 5pm.**

Montana Library Association Conference Reflection Paper (10 points): After attending the conference (April 17-20, Missoula Hilton Garden Inn), write a 2-3 page reflection of your experience. What did you enjoy? What did you find cumbersome? What was most interesting, surprising or challenging? **Due May 5, by 5pm.**

Final Research Paper (30 points): Choose a broad, general topic (diversity, sustainability, community development, etc.) and explore the library literature to see how this topic intersects with librarianship. After consulting the literature, write a paper that focuses on how librarianship and your topic can inform each other, and what you see as the future of your topic in libraries. Be sure to integrate the literature into your paper, but also feel free to argue for a specific policy, position, or outlook as well.

Some things to consider might be – what is the social role of the library in terms of your topic? Why should librarians be concerned with issues of diversity or sustainability (or whatever else you choose)? Does a focus on your topic take away from the “traditional” role or services of libraries, or does it augment them?

You may find that you are interested in a topic that has been little touched upon in librarianship. This is fine – if you can’t find library literature on your topic, delve into other fields as part of your literature review and structure your paper so as to argue about why your area of focus should be integrated into library theory and practice.

Papers should be 7-10 pages and cited according to APA Style. Consult with Megan, Julie or Kim for help finding and narrowing down a topic. **Due May 15, by 5pm.**

Additional Information:

To successfully complete this internship for academic credit, students must:

- Complete a **Learning Agreement** (<http://www.umt.edu/internships/Report/default.aspx>) **before February 7.**

- Maintain a **Timekeeping Record** throughout the internship placement and submit the completed record by the last day of classes.
- Submit an **Online Intern Evaluation** (emailed to you at the end of the semester by the last day of classes).

Please note: Whenever possible, and in accordance with civil rights laws, The University of Montana will attempt to provide reasonable modifications to students with disabilities who request and require them. Please feel free to setup a time with one of the instructors to discuss any modifications that may be necessary for this course. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>