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## History, Concepts, & Research Opportunities Seminar LIS620 – Fall 2012

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1. Welcome
2. Syllabus
3. Assignments
4. Bibliography

### 1. **Welcome.**

LIS 620 serves as a foundation and a cohort-building course. The course takes an international perspective in exploring historical developments, current issues, and research activities of interest to library and information science, archival studies, and related information fields. It reviews the history and major developments in LIS education and considers the role of scholarship in higher education. It introduces key topics related to the research process, including problem identification, funding opportunities, the communication of findings, use of human subjects, research ethics, and research misconduct. Assignments include papers, presentations, leading classroom discussions, and completion of the Simmons College Institutional Review Board “Investigator 101” module. This is the required first course for PhD students.

2. **Syllabus.** This term, we are scheduled to meet on Thursday afternoons, 1–4 pm. The first day of class in September 6, 2012. The last is December 6, 2012.

Complete the readings before the class meets. Every week, write brief abstracts of each of the readings and include them in your portfolio of work, extract what you think are the main points and note what issues you value and which you do not fully comprehend. The twin purposes of this exercise is to master quickly the standard works expected to be known by all LIS doctoral students and to stimulate your own thoughts to draw associations between and across the LIS field. Some students prefer to create word processing documents, others prefer to make websites.

The names listed in the syllabus refer to the citations in the below bibliography. The items should also be on reserve or available electronically through Beatley Library.

There may be guest speakers during the term.

- Sept 6     **Introduction**  
Swetland, Enduring paradigm  
Rubin, Foundations of L&IS (chapters 3, 7, 9)  
Bates, Theory & Metatheory  
*Other readings:*  
Brooke  
Buckland  
Bush, As we may think  
*Online resources (useful all term):*  
Epistemological Lifeboat  
Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- Sept 13    **Library: Social Context**  
Brock, G. W. Second information revolution  
Crowley, W. Spanning the theory-practice divide in LIS  
Cutter, C.  
Naudé  
Ranganathan  
Shera  
Taylor, A. Organization of information, chp. 2
- Sept 20    **Library: records and users**  
Fisher, et al. Theories of information behavior. Scan text but read chapters of interest to you
- Sept 27    **Information Science: introduction**  
Bates, Invisible substrate  
Zins, Conceptions of Information Science  
Capurro, Foundations of Information Science  
Hayes, R. Measurement of Information  
Salton (both articles in bibliography)  
Robertson & Sparck Jones. Simple, proven approaches  
Grossman & Frieder. Information retrieval (first 2 chapters)  
Baeza-Yates (first 2 chapters)  
Raber, Problem of information  
Norton, Introductory concepts in IS
- Oct 4      **Information science and other domains**  
Saracevic, What is information science? [pdf](#)  
Shortliffe, Medical informatics  
Benoit, [Bioinformatics](#), [Data Mining](#)  
Hearst, Text Mining (sites in the biography)  
Rayward, History and historiography of info science (Hahn & Buckland)  
Shera, Librarianship and information science
- Oct 11     **Archives**

**Guest: Jeannette Bastian, Ph.D.** (bastian@simmons.edu)

Cook, Terry. Fashionable nonesense... *Archivia*, 43

Posner, Ernst. Some aspects of archival development (Spring 1998).

Schellenberg, Theodore. "Archival principles", *American Archivist* (1961).

Oct 18 **Archives, Digital Preservation**

Bastian & Yakel. Towards the development of an archival core curriculum. *Archival Science* (2006).

Cox (any work)

Samuels, Helen. *Varsity letters* (1992).

There will be an practice exercise writing a doctoral exam question.

Oct 25 No class. ASIS&T Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD

Nov 1 **Digital Libraries; Museum Informatics**

Marty et al. (Arist chapter)

Borgman

Grafton

MacNeil & Vlask

Nov 8 con't

Nov 15 **Research | Usability**

**Guest: Rong Tang, Ph.D.** (rong.tang@simmons.edu)

Booth et al.

Hernon

Nov 22 No class. Simmons observes the Thanksgiving holiday.

Nov 29 **Research & Presentations**

Budd, Hjørland (hermeneutics)

Benoit (critical theory)

Baudrillard

Benjamin

Bourdieu

Habermas

McKenzie

McLuhan

Mingers & Willcocks. Social theory and philosophy for information systems

Dec 6 con't.

### 3. Assignments

There are three activities in this course:

1. reading and reflecting upon those readings;
2. participation in the seminar by speaking, introducing new ideas, drawing associations between the literatures, and,
3. evidence of the superlative synthesis of the ideas, research questions, and methods used in LAIS (library, archival, and information studies).

For activities 1 and 3: At the end of the term, I review your notes, evidence of development ideas and mastery of the literature., This portfolio is a thoughtful representation of a person's work. Think of it as an intellectual diary of your thinking this semester.

*Activity 1: Reading and Learning.* Prepare an informative abstract of the readings. Include an abstract for one reading from each week through November 15th. You might want to link the readings that you choose for each week (e.g., create historical, methodological, theoretical, and/or philosophical links).

*Activity 2: Speak up!* You will have come to class ready by having read (or at least scanned) the readings. In class, we discuss the ideas. The professor asks leading or provocative questions, will correct on issues of fact. Participation is part of your grade.

*Activity 3: Superlative Synthesis.* Include other products which you are creating such as outlines, notes, or models. Also incorporate the notes which you prepare for the discussion you will be leading in the second half of the semester. Please don't re-write your notes or outlines for the portfolio—we'd rather see them in rough form. Spend your time reading, writing, thinking.

For this part of the portfolio you might include mention of any other projects (teaching, writing, etc.) for which LIS 620 has influenced your thinking.

Remember, we want you to emphasize your thought processes.

Be creative and questioning, but be thoughtful and deliberate, too!

#### 4. Bibliography – Selected General Readings

This is the original 2007 list. Your additions and comments are welcome.

##### Library Science

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25. Ranganathan, S. R. *The Five Laws of Library Science*. Bombay: Asia Publishing House, 1963.

26. Rayward, W. Boyd. "Library and Information Sciences: Disciplinary Differentiation, Competition, Convergence." In *The Study of Information: Disciplinary Messages*, edited by Fritz Machlup and Una Mansfield, 343–63. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1983.
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## Archives

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## Digital Libraries

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### Museums and Museum Informatics

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### Where are we now? Convergence or Mire?

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### Conducting research

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This is the original 2007 list. Your additions and comments are welcome.

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