Instructor
Dr. Kate Williams
katewill@illinois.edu, http://people.lis.uiuc.edu/~katewill
office LIS 344, (217) 244-9128
Office hours: Thursday 11-12 or by appointment

Course description
This course explores major issues in the library and information science professions as they involve their communities of users and sponsors. Analyzes specific situations that reflect the professional agenda of these fields, including intellectual freedom, community service, professional ethics, social responsibilities, intellectual property, literacy, historical and international models, the socio-cultural role of libraries and information agencies and professionalism in general, focusing in particular on the interrelationships among these issues. Required M.S. degree core course.

Learning objectives
In this course students will learn both content (see above) and process that is important to modern librarianship and the information professions. A particular strategy in that class is that you, the student, are the primary vehicle for your own learning and that of others, within the short-lived community known as 502C/D and the local community, and the instructor works to facilitate that. Learning objectives include:
1. Improving your capacity for intense, purposeful reading
2. Grasping theory, practice, and policy as three approaches to understanding libraries and information in context
3. Getting practice at looking at issues from important and different perspectives: outside of European traditions, other than white, non-elite, differently abled...
4. Building and being part of a collaborative learning group
5. Reflecting on this process as you go.

Assignments and course requirements
1. Pose discussion questions and lead discussion. Sign up for one or two readings and prepare three discussion questions for those readings, by 8 pm the night before class. Post them to the moodle under the thread “Discussion questions.” 15% of grade.
2. **Weekly moodle post.** All the weeks that you aren’t preparing questions and leading discussion, post to the moodle before class about two things:
   a. Comment on one of the required readings (from list; cite)
   b. Comment on an optional reading, current event, discovery, other text/video/audio, or the event (#3) you went to that week (be varied; cite)
This is a routine to stimulate you to participate in class; in other words, this part of the coursework includes your contributing in class. 15% of grade.

3. **Participate in discourse.** Librarians and information people have to make a habit of connecting with new ideas and keeping abreast of things. You’ll take a free day trip by UIUC bus to eChicago (held at UIC) on Friday, April 20 and also attend at least three other events from our events calendar. (See me for alternatives if your schedule conflicts.)

4. **Sankofa.** Sankofa (the Akan or Ghanaian symbol at right) means study the past to prepare for the future. This assignment is to produce an annotated bibliography and a poster presentation based on your interest in a challenging library or information issue, drawing a path from a relevant issue of *Library Trends* (find these at ideals.illinois.edu) to the latest thinking “in print” today. You will have one (502D) or two (502C) consultants among your classmates to help you. Instructions will also be provided. 40% of grade. due dates staggered from Feb 16 through April 12.

4. **Field experience.** Volunteer 1-2 hours in Urbana Free Library and write brief structured field notes and a one page evaluation of the experience. A schedule will be developed and instructions provided. 30% of grade, report due to moodle thread “Practical library experience.” Due April 19 unless you are scheduled for last field work date, in which case April 26.

6. **Research paper for four credit students.** An original analysis of an issue or issues covered in/emerging from/related to the course content that you would like to investigate in more detail. 5000-6000 words not including an exhaustive bibliography, and a class presentation. You earn 50% of your course grade on the research paper/presentation and 50% on the other assignments. Three due dates:
   - Proposed topic due March 1 (hard copy in class).
   - Draft paper due March 29 (hard copy in class).
   - Final paper due in class and to moodle thread “Four credit paper” April 26. You will also present your findings in class on April 26.

---

**Use this to plan your approach to reading**

Weekly topics, readings, due dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thursday Jan 19: Occupy librarians &amp; INEQUALITY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thursday Jan 26: ETHNICITY</td>
<td>field signup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thursday Feb 2: EUROCENTRISM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thursday Feb 9: WIKIS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thursday Feb 16: LIBRARIES PAST AND PRESENT</td>
<td>sankofas start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Thursday Feb 23: LIBRARIES PRESENT AND FUTURE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Thursday Mar 1: SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td>4 cr paper topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Thursday Mar 8: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thursday Mar 15: Don Krummel GSLIS history &amp; INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday Mar 22: No class, Spring break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thursday Mar 29: GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>4 cr draft paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Thursday Apr 5: LITERACY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Thursday Apr 12: ETHICS AND PROFESSIONS</td>
<td>sankofas end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday Apr 19: No class, eChicago</td>
<td>field report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Thursday Apr 26: 4CR STUDENTS REPORT</td>
<td>4 cr final paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

January 19: Inequality (* indicates required reading)

“We. Are. The 99%!” Via this catchy idea, and occupations nationwide, inequality became topic #1 in the national discourse in fall 2011. Libraries were in the middle of it. What do we need to know about this? Why are libraries involved? What are the lessons for building libraries in the 21st century?

Guests: Anna Rothman and Daniel Norton, Occupy librarians.


Etta James’s At Last, new lyrics by Lincoln Bergman: http://youtu.be/0dntZZe9h84

Comments at Occupy Wall Street, Michael Zweig, Professor and Director, Center for Study of Working Class Life, State University of New York at Stonybrook: http://veeneo.com/watch/3852

If you need to catch up on the Occupy libraries:
Occupy Wall Street Library (blog): http://peopleslibrary.wordpress.com


January 26: Ethnicity

The USA isn’t a white country anymore. Or is it? Elite professional strata such as librarians may still be white, but not the population they’re serving. Let’s get the 1-2-3’s of this together and start to think beyond that.


February 2: Eurocentrism

Is it possible to reach outside our culture and understand the world, not as ours but as everyone’s? This is a challenge for scholars as others, but focusing on our misconceptions is a start.

*Blaut, James M. The colonizer’s model of the world : geographical diffusionism and Eurocentric history. New York: Guilford Press, 1993. Chapter 1. (two discussion leaders should split this at page 30)

February 9: Wikis

This week we take the case of the wiki and ask: What is new about the new information technologies that are too easy to take for granted?


Read about the localwiki phenomenon: [http://localwiki.org/faq](http://localwiki.org/faq).

**February 16: Libraries past and present**


**February 23: Libraries present and future**


March 1: Scholarly communications


*Atkinson, Ross. "Transversality and the role of the library as fair witness". Library Quarterly April 2005 75 (2)


March 8: Intellectual property


Cornell University Law School, Copyright. http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/copyright.html


Heins and Beckles, “Will Fair Use Survive: Free Expression in the Age of Copyright Control.” (2005)


**March 15: Intellectual freedom**


ALA, "Library Bill of Rights."  
http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.cfm


**March 19: Government**


http://www.ombwatch.org/node/10660


Althous and Leetaru, “Airbrushing History, American Style” by Scott Althaus and Kalev Leetaru, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (November 25, 2008).  
http://www.clinecenter.uiuc.edu/airbrushing_history/

Susman, “Removal or Destruction of Federal Depository Documents” (2002).

**April 5: Literacy**

*Finn, Literacy with an attitude* (1999) [if you have read this in Community Informatics class, please read Brown below instead]


**April 12: Ethics and professions**


Graham, “Librarian hopes song index evens the score for musicians” (1996).

**April 19: No class, eChicago trip**

**April 26: Four credit students report**