



Community Informatics Core Curriculum

Spring 2009

These are the core courses being offered for Spring 2009:

- LIS 490CEL Community Engagement [LEEP] - Willingham
- LIS 590COO [Off-campus section of 590 CO] Community Informatics Concepts - Bishop
- LIS 590REL Intro to Doing Social Science Research in LIS [LEEP] - Haythornthwaite

Course Descriptions

The three core courses required to complete the CI program are:

CI Concepts

- Surveys key CI concepts
- Provides principles to help professionals and researchers understand how communities use information and communications technologies
- Especially useful for those interested in public or community libraries, youth services, social work, education, and/or working with underserved communities

Community Engagement

- Introduces community engagement theory and practice
- Addresses how information professionals learn about, collaborate with, and provide services to communities
- Service-learning or research project-based curriculum
- May include performing community needs assessments, involving local residents in museum decision-making, providing basic computer training for seniors, working on school literacy programs, bookmobiles, teen reading clubs, citizen science, organizing local issue forums and art exhibits in libraries, homework help, and local history archiving

Introduction to Doing Social Science Research in LIS

- Introduces fundamentals of social science research for library and information science professionals
- Focuses on framing a problem, choosing and applying an appropriate research method and preparing research for publication
- Allows students to select their own projects
- Recommended for students who may work in a library, community center or other setting that requires research for tenure and promotion, or local evaluation of services and practices

*Core CI courses will be offered each semester on-campus and/or via LEEP. For questions, contact Sharon Irish at slirish@illinois.edu. Enrollment is not limited to CI students; CI Core Courses are open to all interested students.

CI Electives Spring 2009

Recommended electives related to Community Informatics

- LIS 590UL Ubiquitous Learning (Haythornthwaite, Twidale)
- LIS 390/590 BTW Serving Child in School/Comm (Bishop, Huggins)
- LIS 590ML/590MLL [On Campus and LEEP] Media Literacy and Youth (Tilley)
- LIS 590IBO Inquiry-Based Learning (Bruce)
- LIS 590ITB Information Technology & the Black Experience (Alkalimat)

Course Descriptions

Ubiquitous Learning - Haythornthwaite, Twidale - 4 credit hours

- This course examines some of the ways in which ubiquitous computing technologies enable new ways of learning and teaching in both formal and informal settings.

Serving the Child in Schools and the Community - Bishop/Huggins - 2 credit hours

- Course work includes after-school tutoring/mentoring of elementary and middle school students
- Focus: relating to children, motivating/engaging children in learning, community institutions, agencies serving children, and social issues affecting U.S. children
- LIS 590, LIS 390, and CI 260BTW meet together as one class

Media Literacy and Youth (On campus and LEEP) - Tilley - 2 or 4 credit hours

The class will:

- Allow students to examine their own media experiences and to question how we currently use and analyze mass mediated texts and technologies
- Acquaint students with instructional resources and strategies for media literacy in libraries and schools
- Guide students in a production project that will utilize and deepen their critical understanding.

Inquiry-Based Learning - Bruce - 4 credit hours

- Introduction to a way of thinking about learning as it occurs in libraries, museums, homes, and workplaces, as well as in formal educational settings
- Examine the creation of environments in which learners are actively engaged in making meaning through personal and collaborative inquiry
- The course will also examine challenges to inquiry-based instruction, including those related to management, assessment, basic skills, cultural differences, and pedagogical goals

Information Technology & the Black Experience - Alkalimat - 4 credit hours

- This course will examine the ways in which the Black community is being impacted by and using information and communication technologies
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- The course will involve lecture-discussion, but mainly be in a workshop format with the focus being a group research project digitizing the Black experience in Illinois

Community Informatics Initiative

Graduate School of Library and Information Science

Illinois Informatics Institute; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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