Community Informatics Courses Fall 2009

LIS 590CO/COL  Community Informatics
Kate Williams
A survey of key concepts in an emerging field that studies how local, historical communities are using information and communications technologies. Covers key principles for work in the non-profit/public sector as people harness new technologies and media as individuals, students, families, community organizations, and so on. Overarching ideas prepare both professionals and researchers to understand and master this environment, whatever their technology background. Especially useful for those interested in public or community libraries, youth services, social work, education, and anyone interested in working with or studying underserved communities.

LIS 490CEL  Community Engagement [online]
Chip Bruce
Community engagement refers to the multiple ways that information professionals in libraries and other settings learn about, collaborate with, and provide service and outreach to community members. This course provides an introduction to, and overview of, community engagement theory and practice. A significant portion of coursework will take the form of service learning or community-based research via approved projects that match students' interests. Course participants will have the opportunity to join ongoing community engagement projects that are led by GSLIS faculty and community partners. [A highly recommended course for the Community Informatics specialization.]

LIS 451AL/AB  Intro to Network Systems
Martin Wolske
Hands-on introduction to technology systems for use in information environments. The course steps students through choosing, installing, and managing computer hardware and operating systems, as well as networking hardware and software. Students will have an opportunity to design and create a working network environment as part of the course work. Mid-semester and end of semester field trips required. Details in syllabus. An additional class materials fee is assessed to the student's bill (non-waived).

LIS 490DD Digital Divide: Policy, Research and Community Empowerment
Abdul Alkalimat (McWorter)
This course combines an intensive reading of texts with hands on field work in building bridges across the digital divide. Students will work in teams by partnering with an assigned community organization to develop and implement a plan to informaticize that organization. Part of this course will involve a lecture series by leading information technology professionals regarding community uses of information technology and related issues involving the digital divide.
LIS 490GIG  Geographic Information Systems
Jon Gant
Focuses on analytical methods using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and will apply these methods to community-based issues, local and national government, and civil society, as well as participatory methods using GIS. A hands-on course with weekly labs and service learning projects.

LIS 590BTW  Serving the Child in Schools and Community
Sujin Huggins
This community engagement course is designed for students interested in working with children (defined as birth through high school), careers serving children, and/or parenthood. The focus for this course is tutoring and mentoring children (elementary through middle school). Class content focuses on relating to children, motivating and engaging children in learning, community institutions and agencies serving children, and social issues affecting the lives of American children today. This graduate course meets with undergrad sections CI 260 BTW and LIS 390 BTW. Students enrolled in the graduate section will have some assignments that vary from the undergraduate assignments.

LIS 590CEL  Civic Entrepreneurship [online]
Taylor Willingham
This course will prepare students to be civic innovators in libraries, other public institutions and community-based organizations. This course content will come primarily from the civic and social entrepreneurship literature and case studies of innovative and entrepreneurial librarians who are redefining the role of libraries in relation to the civic and social life of their communities. Students will gain a new understanding of how entrepreneurial public institutions can build the civic capacity needed to develop new approaches to public problems. Students will contribute to a new stream of research on civic entrepreneurship within the professions of the library, nonprofit, community-based, and public institutions, and civic-minded individuals.

590ST  Strategic Information Management
Jon Gant
Overview of contemporary practices for managing information as a strategic asset of public-sector, non-governmental organizations, community-based and civil society service-based organizations including libraries and museums. Students will learn through active learning how management, technology and organization components work together to create information systems, the behavioral aspects of using information assets in organizations, managerial usage of information systems; and, how to assess the information architecture and capabilities of an organization, and practices for developing strategic information plans.

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