

PALMER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

LIU POST CAMPUS

LIS 610 Readers' Advisory (RA) Spring 2018 **Time:** Wednesdays, 6:30 PM – 8:20 PM

~ Please turn off all cell phones ~

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Susan Ketcham, **IMC** LIU Post Library

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Course Description:

This course teaches both traditional readers' advisory skills and the use of print and electronic reader's advisory tools. The purpose of the course is to enhance the skills needed to match the book with the reader. The use and selection of multiple formats will be emphasized in addressing collection development skills for RA librarians. New databases, such as Ebsco's Novelist and social cataloging tools such as Goodreads will be evaluated.

Palmer School Objectives: This course fulfills the following **Palmer School Student Learning Objectives:**

1D: Students will communicate effectively with diverse audiences

2C: Search, retrieve, and synthesize information from a variety of systems and sources

3A: Evaluate and use information resources and services to meet the needs of diverse populations

Course Objectives:

- To develop awareness of the range of professional challenges (e.g. interpersonal communication, overwhelming abundance of relevant materials, etc.) associated with reader's advisory services.
- To foster the development of professional skills (e.g. online information retrieval, understanding of the subtleties of various fiction genres and subgenres, etc.) key to fiction reference service.
- To present students with information resources (both print and electronic) of use in responding to readers' advisory inquiries.
- To articulate the importance of ongoing professional development in support of effective fiction reference practices.

Required Textbook:

The textbook for LIS 610 Readers' Advisory is:

Saricks, Joyce G. *The readers' advisory guide to genre fiction* (2nd ed.) Chicago : American Library Association, 2009 ISBN: 9780838909898

The book is also available as an eBook through the LIU online catalog.

Expectations

You are expected to learn about knowledge organization by doing all of the following:

- Attend class and actively participate
- Read all assigned readings prior to the appropriate class.
- Become familiar with all the resources need to complete the assignments and with those presented in class
- Complete the assignments on time.

Course Communication

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements will appear on your Blackboard dashboard when you log in. Please make certain to check for them regularly, as they will contain any important information about upcoming projects or class concerns.

EMAILS

Please use your LIU email account to send me e-mails. I will respond within 24 hours Monday - Friday.

QUESTION FORUM

A General Questions Forum has been setup under the Discussions tab. If you have a general question to ask me, please create a thread and post it to this discussion forum. Often times, more than one student will ask the same question, so posting the question may help others in the class. Please note, the General Questions Forum is not a private forum, so e-mail me directly for any private matters or use the private message feature during virtual office hours.

NETIQUETTE

When posting online it is important to understand *netiquette* or how to interact with one another online. You can read more about the core rules of netiquette at <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

"The most important rule of netiquette is 'Think before you post.'"

Course Work:

Blackboard (<https://blackboard.liu.edu/>). Username and Password are the same ones you use to access MY LIU. All lectures, assignments, due dates, and discussion questions will be posted.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be submitted through Blackboard



You are to visit a local public library – **not your own** – to get some information on how they provide readers' advisory services. You can ask for help finding a book in a specific genre and/or you can ask the librarian about their readers' advisory services directly. Please share your findings -- 500 words double spaced (1 page double sided).

Book Reviews

Read Books in Select Genres - You will read six books in total. Please read **one** adult fiction book of your choice from each of these five genres: **Historical, Mystery, Romance, Literary and Science Fiction**. The sixth book will be one of these genres: **Adventure, Fantasy, Horror, Suspense, Urban Fiction, or Westerns**.

You will:

- Do a complete book review for each of them and post your reviews to our class wiki. A separate WIKI page for each of the six genre book reviews has been setup within the Blackboard course. See Blackboard for due dates.
- The book review is to be written in **your own** words and **not** to be taken from Goodreads, Novelist or any other book review source. Plagiarism will result in a zero for that review.
- Include 3 Read-A-Likes for each book. Read-A-Like resources will be posted on blackboard.

Titles that you choose must be approved by me. Each student is to read a different book, so please use the sign-up sheets for each genre that are listed in Blackboard.

The review should include the following:

- Picture of book cover
- Title
- Author
- Year of publication
- Genre and subgenre classifications - note: "fiction" and "nonfiction" are not genres
 - Examples: Historical; Regency ... Horror; Supernatural
- A 150-250 word plot summary that does **not** include any "spoilers." Note: your plot summary should include nothing more than a summary of the plot; do not discuss appeal elements here (there is a separate section of the assignment for that).
- Time period and geographic location information

- Relevant series information if applicable: is this title part of a series? If so where does it fall in the sequence of titles within that series?
- A discussion of the book's appeal. You should discuss each of the following appeal elements: pace, tone, level of characterization, storyline, frame, and writing style. Do not simply state that "the pace is fast" or the "tone is dark and gritty", explain why. A way to be sure you are fulfilling the requirement for this portion of the assignment to determine whether the following is answered: The [insert appeal element] is [insert adjective] because..." This section does not have a word limitation.
- If a movie was made of the book and you have seen it, add a personal comment comparing the two.
- A mention of any "red flags", i.e. graphic sex, violence, or language
- Three "Read-Alike" titles. You do NOT have to read these titles. Titles can be derived from the Novelist database or similar tool.

Book Reading Club

You will create a book reading club for a specific genre. The book reading club theme will be one of these genres: **Adventure, Fantasy, Horror, Suspense, Urban Fiction, or Westerns**. More than one person can choose the same genre, just not the same book title.

Read a novel within the book reading club genre.

- Design the book club, create promotional materials for **Book club**- write 2-3 pages describing your book club. Consider all aspects of your book club. Describe your book club's library and community. Who is your intended audience? How many books will they have to read and how long will the book reading club run? Where will you have your meeting when the club ends? Can anyone attend? Will you serve refreshments? If so, what? Is there a budget for this program? If so how will it be used? For example, will there be giveaways? If yes, what will they be? You do not need to buy them but list them out or find a picture of the item(s).
 - **Choose the title of your book club**
- This will be based on your intended audience. How did you decide on this title? Why is this title appropriate for your book club?
 - **Create promotional materials**

Get the word out about this book reading club and the meeting for this title. You need to create at least two items: a book trailer using Animoto* (a video creation service) and one in print. Here are some examples: flyer, book mark, poster. Be creative; don't limit yourself to these items if you think of something else. Where/how will these items be placed or distributed? What other promotional items will you use? Radio or TV spot,

social media, web page or other item? Be imaginative in your designs- make them professional and interesting.

* A free educational Animoto account is available for each of you to use for this project.

Presentation

You will be required to prepare a brief 5-7 minute presentation of your book reading club. This will take place during our last class. Give a synopsis of the 2-3 page description you are submitting. Show and describe the materials you prepared. This is just a presentation of your ideas and materials. You may create a PowerPoint if you want.

Book Discussion Packet

- Choose one of the books that you have read for this class.
- Include at least 7-10 possible questions for discussion.
- Create an annotated book list that would serve as a read-alike guide based on your discussion title. Your list should include at least five (no more than eight) suggested titles by different authors. You do not need to read these books.
- Each suggested title should include a brief annotation (2-3 sentences) that summarizes the plot and addresses how at least two of the appeal elements of each suggested title fit in context with your discussion title. You may use the Novelist database or similar tool.
- Your list should look professional. You are encouraged to use graphics, images, and/or clip art to make your document visually appealing. This document should fit on two sides of a standard sheet of paper.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discussion forums will be set up for each of the five discussion questions. Students are to answer the question(s) and respond to minimally two posts by fellow classmates.

As the instructor, I will facilitate student discussions but I will not address every single post. I might share a related idea, intervene when the discussion goes off-track, or tie student comments together to help deepen student learning. Consequently, I will not directly answer questions in the discussion area unless they are addressed to me.

Some characteristics I consider to be part of excellent discussion contributions are outlined below. In addition:

- Submit initial threads/posts **early** in the session and subsequent responses to the posts of other students at timely intervals throughout the duration of the session. The goal is to have a dynamic discussion around the topic that lasts throughout the entire session.

- Threads/posts and responses should be thorough and thoughtful. Just posting an "I agree" or "Good ideas" **will not** be considered adequate. Support statements with examples, experiences, or references. Be brief — keep each post and response to one or two short paragraphs. Keep in mind that fellow classmates will be reading and responding to you, too.
- Threads/posts should be within a range of 75-150 words. If a post does not meet the minimum word count of 75, I will not count it toward your grade.
- Make certain that all threads/posts and responses address the question, problem, or situation as presented for discussion. This does not mean you should not extend the topic, but do not stray from the topic.
- Make sure to revisit the discussion forum and respond (if necessary) to what other learners have posted to your initial responses.

Grading Criteria for Participation:

Class participation is a requirement for your final grade. Attendance at all class meetings is expected. If you cannot attend class, please notify me before the missed class meeting. You are responsible for all content and announcements made at missed classes.

Assignments	% of Final Grade:
Book Reviews	50
Book Reading Club	20
Book Discussion	10
Undercover RA Agent	10
Discussion Questions	<u>10</u>
	100