Course Outline/Syllabus

LIBR 2516 – Readers' Advisory Services

Course Format: Online

Credits: 3   **Transfer Credit:** For information, visit bctransferguide.ca

Course Description, Prerequisites, and Corequisites:

This course acquaints students with reading and media interests of adults in preparation for readers' advisory (RA) work in these areas. Issues related to readers' advisory service in public and other library settings are covered, as well as the basic tenets of readers' advisory. Students learn how to interview readers to determine their reading interests, and explore RA tools that are available for making reading and viewing recommendations.

Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

1. practice acceptance of and support for the varied reading interests of adults
2. interview a reader to determine their reading/viewing/listening interests
3. make recommendations for pleasure reading/viewing/listening in a number of genres/subject areas
4. create a genre/theme guide
5. design a readers' advisory program
6. create a book trailer or book talk on a specific title
7. concisely summarize a book's appeal factors in writing and orally
8. demonstrate understanding of the philosophy behind readers' advisory

Methodology

- Unmarked activities, classroom discussions, participation and attendance: students will be expected to interact with each other and the instructor in course discussions and complete activities weekly.
- Assignments: Several graded assignments will be assigned throughout the term.

Instructor Information:
Instructor Email: fhunt@langara.ca
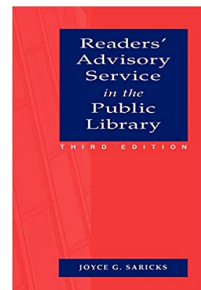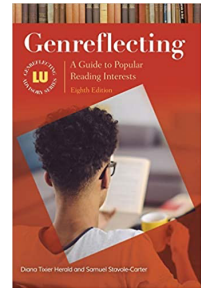**Office Hours:** Check Fiona's office hours here: https://langaralibtech.opened.ca/455-2/
Optional Zoom Sessions ([https://langara.zoom.us/j/3913991546):](https://langara.zoom.us/j/3913991546) TBA – Dates to be discussed with students during first week of the course.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Required texts are available through the Langara bookstore and/or Langara library as e-books that you can use online. Note that for all of the texts listed below, you can get them used on sites such as Abe Books (https://www.abebooks.com/) or Half Price Books (https://hpb.com/books/book/1023.canada). (I have used Abe Books with good success, but have never tried the other, just FYI.) There is no need to spend full price if you wish to own these titles yourself.
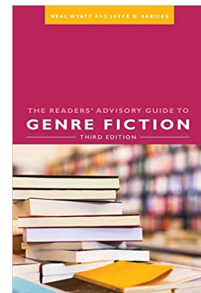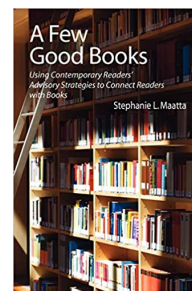
Required:
- Herald, D. T. & Stavole-Carter, S. (2019). *Genreflecting: A guide to popular reading interests* (8th edition). Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited.
    - *NB: This text is available through the Langara library as a print book. I have asked to have it put on reserve, so that people can use it in the library and it will always be available. Call number: PS 374 P63 R67 2019. There appear to be two copies. (https://twist.langara.ca/record=b1886921~S1)*
    - *I will be making certain chapters available on Brightspace for those who cannot purchase it or go to Langara to use it.*
    - *If you want to use the 7th edition, that will also work, though some readings will be slightly different. It tends to be slightly cheaper to purchase used if that's what you'd like to do. Note that the book lists will of course be older in the older edition.*
    - *Finally, regardless of where you're located, most public libraries have this title as it's a standard source for use by library staff.*

- Selected chapters from Saricks, J. G. (2005). *Readers' advisory service in the public library* (3rd ed). Chicago: American Library Association.
    - *NB: This book is available as an ebook through the Langara library https://twist.langara.ca/record=b1876371~S1. It's an excellent resource if you feel inclined to purchase it, but there is no need to do so for this course.*

- Additional readings, viewings and audio materials to be assigned in Brightspace in the weekly course modules.

Recommended:
- Any books by Nancy Pearl (eg. Booklust, Booklust To Go, etc.)
- Wyatt, N. & Saricks, J. (2019). *The readers' advisory guide to genre fiction*. Chicago: ALA Editions. Available at Langara Library as an e-book: https://twist.langara.ca/record=b1876372~S1
- Maatta, S. L. (2010). *A few good books: Using contemporary readers' advisory strategies to connect readers with books*. New York: Neal Schuman.

- Other recommended readings, viewings or audio materials will be posted to Brightspace.

Assessments and Weighting:

Participation:
        RA Triad
        Discussion Board Participation
	15%

Midterm quiz	15%
Assignment 1: Genre/Theme Guide	20%
Assignment 2: Program Proposal	20%
Assignment 3: Book Talk or Book Trailer	20%
Assignment 4: Reading Diary	10%
Total	**100%**

Grading and Expectations:

All activities, assignments and projects **must be completed** and submitted in order to successfully complete the course.

Library and Information Technology Program Grading Scheme

Grade	Mark
A+	96-100
A	91-95
A-	88-90
B+	84-87
B	80-83
B-	77-79
C+	71-76
C	65-70
C-	60-64
D	50-59
F	Below 50%

Detailed Course Schedule: Please see Course Schedule within Brightspace.

College Policies:

As a student at Langara, you are responsible for familiarizing yourself and complying with the following policies:

E1003 - Student Code of Conduct

F1004 - Code of Academic Conduct

E2008 - Academic Standing - Academic Probation and Academic Suspension

E2006 - Appeal of Final Grade

F1002 - Concerns about Instruction

E2011 - Withdrawal from Courses

Departmental/Course Policies:

All Library and Information Technology program students must achieve a "C" in this course in order to apply it to the diploma.

Updated October 20, 2025