

LIBR 1120: Philosophy and Function

[Modified for Fall 2018 term]

Year and semester: Fall 2018

Course format: Lecture

Course description: This course is designed to introduce the learner to the major aspects of library history and culture, bibliography, and reading behaviour. Students will develop their knowledge of these areas through lectures, research, and the completion of three assignments.

Credits: 3

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Prerequisite(s):

There is no prerequisite, aside from admission to the Library and Information Technician Program.

Transfer Credit: For information regarding transfer and articulation, please go to the BC-TRANSFERGUIDE, <http://bctransferguide.ca/>.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, the learner will have acquired the knowledge to be able to:

1. Understand and describe the basic history of major writing systems, manuscripts, and the printed book
2. Describe the basic components of books printed in Europe and North America between 1455 and the present day
3. Describe design and marketing strategies of major publishers and book distributors in North America and Europe
4. Describe the function of booksellers and their relationship with libraries of all kinds
5. Describe the administrative structure of libraries, archives and information centres
6. Describe the development of librarianship as a profession, with reference to the growth of library education and library school curricula
7. Describe the development of archival service as a profession, with reference to its relationship to librarianship and historical research
8. Describe the major ethical issues arising from current library practices
9. Understand and describe the major implications of current issues including privacy, information security, and professionalism

Textbook and Course Materials:

There is no textbook for LIBR 1120. Reading materials are distributed during lectures and exercises. The instructor will recommend specific research materials to individual students, or to student groups working on various assignments.

This course may use an electronic (online) instructional resource that is located outside of Canada for mandatory graded class work. You may be required to enter personal information, such as your name and email address, to log in to this resource. This means that your personal information could be stored on servers located outside of Canada and may be accessed by U.S. authorities, subject to federal laws. Where possible, you may log in with an email pseudonym as long as you provide the pseudonym to me so I can identify you when reviewing your class work.

Assignment Weighting:

Students shall be assessed on the basis of three written assignments. Each assignment is worth one-third of the student's final grade. Students must complete all three assignments to receive credit for LIBR 1120.

grade.

Assignment One:

The history (or biography) of a book, play, poem, recording, or film

Your history (or biography) of a book, play, poem, etc. may cover:

- Author's background
- Cultural background
- Inception of the work--where did the author get the original idea for the work?
- Early drafts of the work; revisions; problems in writing or compiling or completing the work
- Final draft(s) of the work
- First publication, performance, release
- Special problems in publication or distribution of the work
- Second, third, fourth publication, performance, or release
- Translations into other languages
- Adaptations into other media
- Primary critical reception
- Later critical reception

- Increase in / loss of popularity
- Rediscovery / Reissue
- Artwork, illustrations, photographs
- Prequels and sequels
- Spin-offs (e.g. dolls, t-shirts, action figures, movies, soundtracks, comics, conferences)

Assignment Two:

-- The history of a library, library branch, archives, bookshop or chain, publisher, or other information distributor. Examples:

- Any large public or academic library system or the history of a particular branch, department, building project, or conversion project
- Blackberry Books, Chapters/Indigo Books, Basil Blackwell, Amazon, Abebooks, a used or antiquarian dealer...
- The Library of Alexandria, or another ancient information system...
- An archives, e.g. the Provincial Archives in Victoria, the National Archives in Ottawa...Or the National Archives in London, U.K....Or any large manuscript collection, such as Cotton.
- A record store, e.g. Zulu
- A video store, e.g. Videomatica (formerly on Fourth Avenue in Vancouver, or in UBC's Koerner Library) or the early history of video stores in Vancouver
- Miscellaneous media outlets, such as ITMB in Richmond, and the Vancouver Art Gallery shop
- Library or archival associations, such as CFLA, CLA, ALA, BCLA, ACA, ELA, etc.
- Reading and literary groups, such as the Vancouver Poetry Society, the Western Front, the League of Canadian Poets, etc.
- Special topics, to be discussed with the instructor.

Assignment Three

Sample: Working in groups of three or four students, complete two (2) of the following questions

- Develop an information kit concerning job opportunities in B.C. public and academic libraries for new graduates of the Langara College Library Technician Program. Collect and organize copies of sample job postings, job descriptions, salary and benefit breakdowns, job candidate profiles, and general information

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on libraries cited. Provide a two-page introduction to the kit, with a brief overview of various job opportunities.

- A controversial political group has rented the Events Room for a meeting at the public library where you work. An article in the local newspaper questions whether the library should rent the room to such a group. Local police warn the Library Director that protesters might appear inside or outside the library at any time. Compose a detailed memo outlining any security risks arising from these circumstances. Describe any ethical concerns that staff members might have. If appropriate, refer to any current codes of conduct for libraries, librarians, or library technicians.
- Develop a travel plan and itinerary for a tour of either libraries and bookshops in London, England, OR National Libraries in Asia, OR libraries and galleries in New York City. Consult travel guides, directories, the Internet, and any other reliable source of information. Present your information in the form of a kit, with an introduction and an itemized itinerary.
- Compose a detailed memo to a local public library Director. Propose an archival/records management program for the library administration. Tell the Director why the library needs this program. Describe possible arrangement and conservation schemes. Attach useful articles, brochures, and other information as you see fit.
- Compile an annotated bibliography of "The 25 Most Important Books in B.C.", those books about B.C., published in B.C., or written by a B.C. author. Annotations should indicate why the books are worthy of inclusion in the bibliography.

Grading:

The Library Technician Grading Scheme will apply to LIBR 1120, as follows:

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%



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](#)

[B5003 - Copyright Compliance](#)

Detailed Course Schedule:

[Note: This outline is tentative and subject to change depending on the participation of guest speakers, the scheduling of field trips, and other events.]

- ❑ Session One: Introduction / Assignments / Occupational Health and Safety
- ❑ Session Two: History of Writing and the Alphabet / History of Books and Printing / Textual Scholarship
- ❑ Session Three: Writing, Editing, Publishing and Reading
- ❑ Session Four: Rare Books and Special Collections / Book Collecting
- ❑ Session Five: Archives and Records Management
- ❑ Session Six: History of Librarianship and Information Science
- ❑ Session Seven: Issues in Privacy and Confidentiality (and Fraud, and Info-Theft)
- ❑ Session Eight: Issues in Preservation and Conservation (and who is Nicholson Baker and why do so many librarians want his head on a platter?)
- ❑ Session Nine: Issues in Censorship and Political Correctness
- ❑ Session Ten: Money and Other Dirty Words / Purchasing Practice in Libraries / Implications for Technical Services and Library Design
- ❑ Session Eleven: The Information Professions / Information Associations / Certification and Continuing Education
- ❑ Session Twelve: Futurology and Its Pitfalls / Library Work and the Canadian Economy