InfoSt 713 Subject Analysis in Library Catalogs
Syllabus

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Theories, principles, and major methods of subject cataloging and classification as practiced in interactive online environments. 3 credits.

PREREQUISITES: InfoSt 511(P) or cons instr.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Have a critical understanding of subject retrieval in current library catalogs (class discussions, paper or project);
2. Perform subject analysis by assigning Library of Congress subject headings and LC and Dewey call numbers (exercises);
3. Consider a wide range of issues affecting subject access in a multicultural community (discussions, paper or project);
4. Articulate essential aspects of user-system interfaces that affect subject retrieval (class discussions, paper or project);
5. Critically assess the effectiveness of subject retrieval in library catalogs (class discussions, paper or project).

METHOD:

Lecture/Discussion/Hands-on exercises.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

The other readings are mostly available in the D2L Content module.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (with readings):

Week 1
Introduction to class; introduction to subject cataloging

Weeks 2-3
Users and info retrieval, subject representation Policy, indexing languages, tools

Week 4
Analyzing subject contents

Weeks 5-7
Library of Congress Subject Headings, encoding schemas

Week 8: Spring Break

Week 9
Library classifications and retrieval

Weeks 10-11
Dewey Decimal Classification

Weeks 12-13
Library of Congress Classification

Weeks 14-15
User-system interfaces, next generation OPACs

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

There is no final exam in this class. No late assignments will be accepted. Due dates for individual assignments are clearly specified in D2L.

A. Exercises: there are weekly exercises for Weeks 3-7 and 10-14, mostly consisting of items preselected or manufactured by the instructor. Feedback on them will be provided weekly as well. The points assigned to individual exercises shown in Grades are tentative. I may adjust some of them slightly as the semester progresses.

B. Term paper/project: discuss issues covered in the class or work on a project. More detailed instructions will be distributed after the Spring Recess. Due: May 15.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:
Class participation will be based on your substantive contributions to class discussions. For detailed participation rules, see Class Introduction.

EVALUATION:
Exercises 60%
Term paper/project 20%
Class participation 20%
Total 100%

GRADING SCALE:

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<td>A</td>
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<td>77-79.99</td>
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<td>74-76.99</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99</td>
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Notes:
This is a hands-on class. You learn mostly by doing exercises. You should review readings from 511 as much as possible.

For students in Information Organization (IO) Concentration, a minimum of a B is required to have this course count towards your IO requirements.
If you are a student with special needs, you should have a VISA form sent to me by the end of the first week. Please do not wait until you are in trouble!

Academic Policies:
The following link contains university policies affecting all SOIS students: [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf). For graduate students, there are additional guidelines from the Graduate School [http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/policies/](http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/policies/).