Catalog Course Description: 3 hours. Examination of value and role of leisure reading in U.S. public libraries; interview techniques, support processes, and bibliographic resources for providing services to adults and older adolescent readers. Suggested (but not required) prerequisites: LIS 5053 and LIS 5513.

Interpretation of Course Description: This course will use lectures, in-class discussion and exercises, independent readings and assignments to address the history and current context of reader’s advisory services for adults, explore the nature of leisure reading and the reader’s relationship to the book, familiarize students with various forms of leisure reading (genre, literary fiction and nonfiction) and provide students with knowledge and strategies to connect readers and books.

Audience (level, environment/setting): General elective; advanced; MLIS student, especially public library track, adult services. Offered even-numbered Falls. Format varies.

Expectations: Prior to the start of class, students should be able to use D2L, including accessing news and contents, participating in discussion boards, and submitting assignments through folders; produce documents that are professional in appearance using word processing software. Students will be expected to read a book each week in addition to other required readings.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
- Conduct an effective readers’ advisory interview and select appropriate texts.
- Identify literary genres, their characteristics, and representative authors.
- Write annotations of leisure reading materials that incorporate key points of appeal.
- Plan and develop marketing tools to promote readers’ advisory, including bookmarks and brochures.
- Plan and present a booktalk/presentation.

Topics:
- Historical background and current context of readers' advisory services
- Readers’ advisor’s goals and knowledge areas; cognitive and interpersonal skills
- Why people read: processes and purposes; prevalence and value of leisure reading; the social nature of reading
- Reading for appeal: Reading and recording
- Readers’ advisory resources: Using and creating tools, print and digital
- Interviewing for appeal: The reader’s advisory interview
- Definition, types, popularity, and appeal of popular forms, including genre (romance, science fiction, western, horror, etc.), literary fiction, and nonfiction
- The generic book: Alternative formats for “readers” (graphic novels and audiobooks)
- Tools and techniques for promoting reading and readers’ advisory services, including annotations, bookmarks, and booktalks
- The social nature of reading redux: book discussion groups and RA 2.0
- Training, continuing education, and strategies for readers’ advisory

Opportunities for Utilizing Relevant Technology:
Create, share, and discuss annotations; use and compare resources for readers’ advisory, including subscription databases and library websites; create bookmarks and brochures using word processing software; use D2L communication technologies (e-mail, discussion board, etc) to support class work.

Last Offered: Fall 2010/Fall 2012 Document prepared by: Connie Van Fleet, August 6, 2012

Disclaimer: This summary represents the course as it has been taught in past semesters and is provided for the convenience of students and advisors. No guarantees are expressed or implied about current and future course offerings.