LIS 5990 – ARCHIVAL APPRAISAL

Catalog Course Description: Prerequisites: LIS/KM 5033, LIS/KM 5053; LIS 5423. Evaluation and examination of contributions of key figures in development of archival appraisal theory; identification and evaluation of distinct movements in archival appraisal; identification of cultural, political, sociological, and technological movements that can impact appraisal methodologies.

Interpretation of Course Description: Appraisal is understood as a concept of evaluating archival materials to determine how they should be understood, circulated, and disposed. The course deals with fundamental questions related to the role and constitution of archives in society (paying particular attention to under-represented communities), and the relationship between larger socio-cultural forces and archives. The course will also examine and evaluate the contributions of key figures in the development of American archival appraisal theory; identify and evaluate distinct and related movements in archival appraisal; identify cultural, political, sociological, and technological factors (such as electronic/digital records) that can have an impact on appraisal methodologies; and consider issues of bias within the appraisal process.

Audience: (level, environment/setting): Guided Elective, Advanced, MLIS, face-to-face and video

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 and scholarly using word processing software.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1) Describe the implications of archival appraisal on the archival field as a whole, as well as its relationships to cultural heritage, politics, and other wider dynamics; 2) Be able to define and discuss entities and concepts that are central to archival appraisal; 3) Explain the nature of collecting and how this varies cross-culturally and cross-historically; 4) Identify and demonstrate the ways in which records and archival appraisal serve as instruments of bureaucracy, accountability, democratic access, community and individual empowerment, and scholarship; 5) Be sufficiently familiar with the functions, processes and underlying ideas of scheduling, appraisal, accessioning, and de-accessioning in traditional and digital archival and manuscripts environments to be able to articulate major approaches and considerations in each area with reference to key literature in the field; 6) Develop effective appraisal strategies for various types of communities and institutions.

Topics: Conceptualizing the “record” and “appraisal”; Social, Cultural, and Judicial Contexts of Appraisal; Overview of Appraisal Models; Appraisal Models – Documentation Strategists; Culture and Collection; Exploring Cultural Expression and Archives; Business Records and Functional Analysis (Macro-Appraisal); International Perspectives on Archival Appraisal; Sampling and Re-appraisal

Opportunities for Utilizing Relevant Technology: Basic word-processing skills, D2L, PowerPoint presentations

Course Last Offered: New Course; 2010 Document prepared by: Dr. White, Fall 2009

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.