UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES
LIS5123: Readers’ Advisory
Fall 2012
Mondays 4:30 – 7:10    Bizzell, Room 100
Instructor: Connie Van Fleet, Ph.D.

Course description (General elective category)
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 Information Users in the Knowledge Society and LIS5513 Information Sources and Services.

Course objectives
• To discuss the historical background and current context of readers' advisory services.
• To provide a conceptual foundation for readers' advisory services by exploring the value of leisure reading and the reading process to public library patrons.
• To familiarize students with forms of popular leisure reading materials.
• To develop cognitive and interpersonal skills necessary for the provision of readers' advisory services.
• To provide students experience with tools and techniques for promoting reading and readers’ advisory services.

Learning objectives
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
• Conduct an effective readers’ advisory interview and select appropriate materials.
• 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.

Teaching/ Learning methods
This course utilizes group discussion, independent reading, active learning exercises, and interaction with guest speakers and lecture. A very high level of student participation is required. Assignments are process oriented to demonstrate comprehension of background knowledge and ability to translate to professional practice.

Delivery mode
This course is offered face to face, supplemented by D2L, in a 15-week format.
Required (by OU SLIS) style manual
Libraries.)

Required texts
Saricks, Joyce G. *Readers’ Advisory Service in the Public Library*. 3rd Chicago:
Saricks, Joyce G. *The Readers’ Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction*. 2nd Chicago: American
A card at your local public library should give you access to NoveList (EBSCO) or
Reader’s Advisor Online (Libraries Unlimited/ABC-CLIO). You may also access
Reader’s Advisor Online with a trial subscription. [FREE]

Highly recommended (but not required)
For genre fiction:

Background, practice, issues:
Burgin, Robert, editor. *Nonfiction Readers’ Advisory*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited,
Maatta, Stephanie L. *A Few Good Books: Using Contemporary Readers’ Advisory
Shearer, Kenneth D. and Robert Burgin, editors. *The Readers’ Advisor’s Companion*.

For research (literature reviews):
0838909591
Ross, Catherine Sheldrick, Lynne McKechnie, and Paulette Rathbauer. *Reading Matters:
What the Research Reveals About Reading, Libraries, and Community*. Westport, CT:
Libraries Unlimited, 2005. 978-1591580669

Required reading
Additional reading will be required. Most journal articles are available full-text through
the OU Libraries databases (generally Library Literature). Book chapters, articles, or
other materials not available full-text are available on D2L. Novels, nonfiction leisure
reading, and alternative formats for assignments are the responsibility of the student.

Supplemental reading
Throughout the semester, I will offer some suggestions for your further reading pleasure.
You are not required to read this material and it is not available through electronic
reserves.
Use of Course Materials
I am often asked if students may use course materials (reading lists, exercises, etc.) in their libraries. You may use any course materials I have developed as long as you provide proper attribution. You MAY NOT use material that I have indicated is from another author; you MAY NOT use the work of your fellow classmates without their express permission.

Evaluation methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annotation 1: Literary or Mainstream Fiction</td>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation 2: Mystery or Psychological Suspense</td>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation 3: Westerns or Historical</td>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation 4: Adventure or Thriller</td>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation 5: Romance or Romantic Suspense</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation 6: Women’s Lives and Relationships or Gentle Reads</td>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation 7: Speculative Fiction</td>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation 8: Nonfiction for Leisure Reading</td>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transcript of Initial Patron Interview</td>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Booktalk Materials due</td>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Booktalk Presentations</td>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation 9: Graphic Novels</td>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation 10: Audiobook Annotation</td>
<td>November 26</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patron Interview Analysis</td>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation, including exercises &amp; quizzes</td>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Policy on attendance
This is a graduate level professional course and class participation is expected. 5% of the total grade is awarded on the basis of participation. The class participation grade is influenced by, but not limited to, attendance. Class participation is evaluated on the extent to which students contribute to class discussion, offer reading suggestions to other students, bring external resources to the attention of the class, and complete exercises and quizzes. “It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.” (Section 3.13.2 of The Faculty Handbook)

In addition, class discussion is an integral part of the annotation assignment. Students will be penalized two (of a possible three points) if they are not in class for book discussions. Annotations are due even if students cannot attend to participate in discussion.

Students are required to attend the booktalk presentations of all other students. Students who fail to do so will receive a grade of zero (0, F) for the presentation section (10% of
final grade) of their own booktalks. Students who fail to attend the in-class discussion of the Patron Interview Assignment will be penalized 10 points on the assignment.

Grading
A = 90-100%  B = 80-89%  C = 70-79%

A "B" grade indicates that the student has fulfilled the requirements of the assignment. The work is complete and presented well without major flaws in reasoning or content. An "A" grade is evidence of superior organization, content, analysis, or thought. A "C" grade is a warning signal the student should talk to the instructor.

All papers should be typewritten or word-processed. Please proofread your papers. A spelling checker is not a substitute for proofreading. Points will be deducted for sloppy work.

Papers are due at the beginning of the class period of the due date unless otherwise specified.

Standards for work
Professional standards will apply. Translated to classroom terms, this means:

• Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. The University’s policy regarding academic integrity is available at http://www.integrity.ou.edu. At this site, you will find definitions and examples of academic misconduct. You are responsible for this information.
• Due dates are listed on the course schedule. Work is due at the beginning of the class period on the due date unless otherwise noted. Because written work serves as the foundation for class discussion, no late work will be accepted. Students will receive a grade of “0” (F) for assignments not submitted on deadline.
• Work will be professional in appearance and content. Please proofread your work. A spellchecker is not a substitute for careful proofreading.

Professionalism in electronic communication
It is important that we have a “safe” environment in which colleagues feel comfortable in expressing varying viewpoints. To this end, I ask that you treat others in a respectful manner, whether the communication is in the classroom or in an electronic venue (such as e-mail, discussion boards, chat rooms, etc.). I also ask that you not share conversations, verbal or written, outside of the classroom unless you receive permission from all parties involved.

If you must keep your cell phone, etc. on, please put it on silence or vibrate.

Some of you may choose to take notes on electronic devices. If your keyboard is noisy and disturbs other students, I will ask you to find an alternative means of taking notes. Should you use your time in class to surf the web or otherwise engage in activities that are not relevant to the class, you will be penalized several points and you will not be permitted to bring your computer to class again.
RELATED UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic integrity [SLIS standard statement]
"Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities, and those privileged to be members of a university community have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty and a right to expect the same standards of all others. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the university and therefore is unacceptable and rigorously proscribed."

Students should review expectations for the academic integrity of work by reading and reviewing the items posted at the OU Academic Integrity site (www.integrity.ou.edu), including guidance the Academic Misconduct Code and a tutorial on plagiarism. Graduate College Standards are available in the Graduate College Bulletin (http://www.ou.edu/content/gradweb/aud/current/GC_bulletin.html)

Grades of Incomplete [SLIS standard statement].
The Graduate College has strict conditions under which a student is given an incomplete in a regularly scheduled, letter-graded course. A grade of Incomplete (I) will be given only for a justifiable reason (due to unavoidable circumstances, not lack of planning on the student's part) and only if the student is passing the course. It is the responsibility of the student to request a grade of I and to meet with the instructor as early as possible to determine the requirements for completing the course. Any incomplete granted must be removed by the deadline specified by the instructor. The time limit set for removal of an incomplete will take into account the circumstances of the situation but may not exceed one calendar year.

Reasonable accommodations [SLIS standard statement]
The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact the OU Disability Resource Center to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate educational opportunities. The OU Disability Resource Center accepts requests from students for reasonable accommodation after the student has self-identified as an individual with a disability and has provided the appropriate documentation that substantiates both the disability and the request for accommodation. Accommodations are not retroactive and begin only after documentation is received and a reasonable time for accommodation development has been allowed. The OU Disability Resource Center on the Norman campus is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405/325-3852 or TDD only 405/325-4173. On the OU-Tulsa campus, students should contact the OU-Tulsa Student Affairs located in Room 1C 53 (phone 918-660-3107).
Codes and policies of behavior [SLIS standard statement]
To protect its faculty and students, the School fully subscribes to the University's codes, policies, and procedures involving academic misconduct; grievances; sexual, racial, and ethnic harassment; and discrimination based on disability. You should acquaint yourself with both your responsibilities and your protections. Links are available from http://www.ou.edu/provost/pronew/

Student evaluation of course and instruction [SLIS standard statement].
At the end of the term, each student will be asked to complete an evaluation form that elicits opinions about the quality and relevance of course content and the quality of instruction. The instructor will not see course evaluations until after grades have been turned in to the Registrar's office. This student input is used by the instructor for improvement of teaching and by the School for annual assessment and tenure and promotion decisions among its regular faculty and for rehiring decisions among adjunct faculty. It is important that you be careful and accurate.

Disclaimer [SLIS standard statement]
This syllabus represents the plan for this course and will be followed to the extent that it is feasible to do so in meeting the instructional goals of the course and the needs of the class. However, it is not, and should not be interpreted as, a contract between the student and the instructor. If necessary, due either to unforeseen circumstances or to unanticipated variations in class progress, it may be changed or adjusted as needed.

Contact Information
Office: 24 Bizzell Library, Norman Campus
Voice: 405.325.3921 (Norman)
E-mail (personal): cvanfleet@ou.edu
Fax: 405.325.7648 (Norman)
Office hours: Tuesdays 9:30 – 12:00; Wednesdays 1:00 – 4:00
Other times by appointment

Please note that I attempt to be in my office for office hours, but that professional service activities sometimes require that I be away. You may want to call ahead or make an appointment to ensure that I will be in the office on any given day. By the same token, I will be happy to visit with you outside of office hours if I am not otherwise engaged. Just knock.

I will try to answer e-mails and post to lists in a timely manner, but I am not online 24/7. I do not check e-mails on the weekend. Please do not expect immediate responses to e-mails.
SCHEDULE

Week 1: August 20

CLASS WILL MEET IN THE GALLOWAY ROOM AT THE NORMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Discussion Topics
Class organization and syllabus
Guest speaker: Judy Day, Norman Public Library
An overview of Readers’ Advisory Services
View from the field: A panel of Norman Public Librarians
In which the librarians discuss their adventures leading book discussion groups and their experiences with readers’ advisory services.
Book Discussion Group: Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand by Helen Simonson
Class will participate in the book discussion. Please come prepared.

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Required Reading

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Handouts
If you build it...
Week 2: August 27

Discussion Topics
Definition and evolution of readers’ advisory services
Overview of the readers’ advisor’s goals and knowledge areas
Why people read: processes and purposes
Reading for appeal: reading and recording

In-class Exercises
Favorite faculty books
Speed-reading for RA

Video
RA 101 (taped readers’ descriptions)

Required Reading
History of Readers’ Advisory:

Reading for appeal:


Readers’ Advisory in a Diverse Society

Handouts
Speed-reading instructions

*** Labor Day Holiday Monday, August 3 ***
Week 3: September 10

Discussion Topics
Interviewing for readers’ advisory

Video
RA 101 (taped readers’ advisory interviews)

Exercise
Interviewing for appeal
Practice interview with peers (Bring tape recorders. Come prepared with interview questions.)

Handouts
Interviewing for Reader’s Advisory: Linking Readers and Books

Required Reading

Week 4: September 17

Assignment Due.
Annotation 1 and discussion (3%): Mainstream and Literary Fiction

Discussion Topics
Resources for readers’ advisory
Mainstream and Literary Fiction
Genre literature: Definition, types, and popularity

In-class Exercises
Resources comparison

Required Reading
Wyatt, Neal. “A Selection of Core Resources for Reader’s Advisory Work.” *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 50 (Fall 2010): 6 – 12.

Handouts
Resources for Readers’ Advisory
Week 5: September 24

Assignment Due
Annotation 2 and discussion (3%): Mysteries and Psychological Suspense

Discussion Topics
Mystery or Psychological Suspense annotations
Mystery: definition, development, appeal, types, authors, sources
Psychological Suspense: definition, development, appeal, types, authors, sources
Marketing and awareness tools: Booktalks

Required Reading

Handouts
Mystery
Psychological Suspense
Booktalks

*** Banned Books Week September 30 – October 6, 2012 ***

Week 6: October 1

Assignment Due
Annotation 3 and discussion (3%): Westerns OR Historical Fiction

Discussion Topics
Western and Historical Fiction annotations
Westerns: definition, development, appeal, types, authors, and sources
Historical fiction: definition, development, appeal, types, authors, and sources
Marketing and awareness tools: bookmarks and brochures

Required Reading

Handouts
Westerns
Historical Fiction
Creating brochures, bookmarks
Week 7: October 8

Assignment Due
Annotation 4 and discussion (3%): Adventure/thriller novels

Discussion Topics
Adventure/Thriller: definition, development, appeal, types, authors, sources
Marketing and awareness tools: displays and arrangement

Required Reading

Handouts
Adventure/thriller novels

*** Comprehensive Examination October 11 (noon) October 15 ***

Week 8: October 15

Assignment Due
Annotation 5 and discussion (3%): Romance or Romantic Suspense

Discussion Topics
Romance or Romantic Suspense annotations
Romance: definition, development, appeal, types, authors, sources
Romantic Suspense: definition, development, appeal, types, authors, sources
Marketing and awareness tools: newsletters and websites

Required Reading

Handouts
Romance: Can Over 41 Million Women Be Wrong?
Romantic Suspense
Newsletters and websites
Week 9:  October 22

Assignment Due
Annotation 6 and discussion (3%): Women’s Lives and Relationships or Gentle Reads

Discussion Topics
Women’s Lives and Relationships or Gentle Reads annotations
Women’s Lives and Relationships: definition, development, appeal, authors, sources
Gentle Reads: definition, development, appeal, authors, sources

Required Reading

Handouts
Women’s Lives and Relationships
Gentle reads and Christian fiction

Week 10:  October 29

Assignments Due
Annotation 7 and discussion (3%): Speculative Fiction

Discussion Topics
Speculative Fiction annotations
Speculative fiction: Science fiction, fantasy, and horror: definition, development, appeal, types, authors, and sources

Required Reading

Handouts
Speculative Fiction: Science Fiction and Fantasy
Week 11: November 5

Assignment Due
Transcript of Initial Patron Interview (0%)
Annotation 8 and discussion (3%): Nonfiction for Leisure Reading

Discussion Topics
Nonfiction annotations
Nonfiction for leisure reading: definition, development, appeal, types, authors, and sources

Required Reading
Saricks, Readers’ Advisory Service in the Public Library, Appendix 2: Popular Nonfiction List, pp. 185 – 187.

Week 12: November 12

Assignment Due
Booktalk Presentations

Week 13: November 19

Assignment Due
Annotation 9 and discussion (3%): Graphic Novels
Don’t forget to bring the novel with you.

Discussion Topics
The Generic Book: Alternative Formats for Readers
Graphic Novel annotations
Graphic Novels: definition, development, appeal, types, authors, and sources

Required Reading

*** Thanksgiving Holiday November 21 – November 25 ***
Week 14: November 26
ündig Assignment Due.
Annotation 10 and discussion (3%): Audiobooks

Discussion Topics
The Generic Book: Alternative Formats for Readers
Audiobooks: definition, development, appeal, types, readers, and sources
Audiobook annotations
Training, continuing education, and strategies for readers’ advisory

Required Reading

Week 15: December 3
ündig Assignment Due.
Readers’ advisory interviews due

Discussion Topics
Discussion of readers’ advisory interview experiences
Future of readers’ advisory

Required Reading