**Note: The full syllabus is available on Canvas to students enrolled in the class.**

Welcome to

**Public Libraries**

Fall 2019, Mondays, 3 - 6 p.m., UTA 1.504

Unique Number: 27320

Instructor: Dr. Loriene Roy, Professor

Monday, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. in UTA 1.504, starting on Monday, 9 September 2019. Our last day of class is Monday, 9 December 2019.

**Course Description**

Historical development, mission, standards, library directors, local government and library boards; financial basis including fund raising and budgeting; personnel; federal and state government systems and library cooperation, legal basis; services to users, popular culture, collection development, marketing, facilities; future; mission, governancy, issues, trends and problems of public libraries.

**Prerequisite:** Graduate standing in the School of Information or admission to the Bachelor’s in Computer Science/MSIS program.

**Specific Learning Objectives**

At the conclusion of this course students should:

* Be familiar with the history of the American public library movement;
* Work with others to explore current issues impacting public libraries;
* Understand the varying publics impacting public libraries including users, library trustees, and local governments;
* Understand general aspects of public library funding;
* Understand the field of librarianship through close contact with one public librarian;
* Become familiar with general aspects of public library services to adult readers;
* Have some familiarity with the physical setting of the American public library;
* Understand the purpose and role of advocating for public libraries.

**Your Required Textbook**

McCook, Kathleen de la Pena and Jenny S. Bossaller. Introduction to Public Librarianship. 3rd ed. Chicago: ALA/Neal-Schuman Publishers. 2018. ISBN: 978-0-8389-1506-6

**Office hours**: By appointment (or by email). If you need to meet with me at another time outside of class, please send me an e-mail and we will find a mutually agreeable time to meet.

**Grading**

* Public Libraries Issue Panel: 150 points
* Public Libraries Issue Panel Handout: 100 points
* Genre Fiction Panel: 150 points
* Genre Fiction Panel Handout: 100 points
* Public Librarian Interview & Reflective Essay: 150 points
* Attendance and Participation: 140 points

**Grade Calculations**

95-100% (750-790 points) = A; 90-94.9% (711-749 points) = A-; 87-89.9% (687-710 points) = B+; 83-86.9 % (655-686 points) = B; 80-82.9 % (632-654 points) = B-; 77-79.9 % (608-631 points) = C+; 73-76.9% (576-607 points) = C; 70-72.9% (553-575 points) = C-

**Tentative Course Schedule**

**Right! Our class does not start until after Labor Day!**

**Week 1 (Sept. 9): Welcome to the Class!**

**We Will Cover:**

* Overview of the class: assignments, schedule, and Canvas.
* Review of course policies.
* SIGN UP: for Public Library Issues Panels.

**Week 2 (Sept. 16): Honoring Our Foundation; Considering Our Purpose**

**We Will Cover:**

* A brief recap of your assignments. Questions?
* Public library history.
* Public library purpose, goals, objectives.

**Week 3 (Sept. 23): Planning, Organizing, and Leading**

**We Will Cover:**

* Standards.
* Multitype systems and library cooperation: lecture and discussion.
* Legal basis.
* Public library administrative organization models.

**Week 4 (Sept. 30): Leading and Serving**

**We Will Cover:**

* Library directors.
* Personnel human resources
* Local government and library boards.

**Week 5 (Oct. 7): Public Libraries Issues Panels**

**We Will Cover:**

* Attendance at the student issues panels!

**Week 6 (Oct. 14): Head Out to a Public Library of Your Choice!**

 \*Dr. Roy will be out of town attending the 2019 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums in Temecula, California. See more at: www.atalm.org Link Plan a site visit to a public library on this day!

**Week 7 (Oct. 21): Support: Advice, Consulting, and** **Funding**

**We Will Cover:**

* Financial basis, including fundraising.
* Budgeting and other reporting activities.

**Week 8 (Oct. 28): Services to Users: The Variety of Public Services: What We Do In Response To and In Anticipation of Patron Need**

**We Will Cover:**

* User clientele.
* User services.

**Week 9 (Nov. 4): Sharing and Placing What We Do: Library Advocacy**

**We Will Cover:**

* Marketing and advocacy

**Week 10 (Nov. 11): “Never Apologize For Your Reading Tastes.” (Betty Rosenberg): Genre Fiction Panels**

**We Will Cover:**

* Attendance at the student genre fiction panels!

**Week 11 (Nov. 18): Public Library Architecture**

**We Will Cover:**

* Library architecture

**Week 12 (Nov. 25): International Public Librarianship**

**We Will Cover:**

* Background on international public libraries.

**Week 13 (Dec. 2): Public Librarian Interview and Reflective Essay**

**We Will Cover:**

* Your reports on your interviews!

**Week 14 (Dec. 9): Into the Future**

**We Will Cover:**

* Discussion of the public library of the future.
* Summary.

**Assignment Descriptions**

**Public Library Issues Panel and Issues Panel Handout**

Develop as a team of 3-4 students a continuing education panel for librarians on a topic of current interest. The sign-up list identifies some topics. Students may suggest a different topic as long as there are varying opinions about the topic with obvious supportive and contrary points of view. Students will also prepare a one page (double sided) handout to accompany their portion of the panel.

Each team will present a 45-55 minute panel presentation to the class and, sometimes, invited guests. Each panel should address the following aspects:

* Historical background
* An overview of materials available on the topic
* An overview of a supporting or pro stance on this issue.
* An overview of a contrary stance on this topic.
* Other relevant information, approved in advance.

**Genre Fiction Panel Presentation and Genre Panel Handout**

Develop as a team of 3-4 students a continuing education panel for librarians on one type of genre fiction. Please select a genre with which you are largely unfamiliar. Students will also prepare a one page (double sided) handout to accompany their portion of the panel.

Each team will present a 45-55 minute presentation to the class and, sometimes, invited guests. Class time should be fairly equally divided among the panelists. Also, allow sufficient time for audience participation.

Each panel should address the following aspects:

* Historical background on the development of the genre
* Selection aids and procedures, including publishers
* Classic titles
* Guidance for genre readers
* Other relevant information, approved in advance.

**Public Librarian Interview and Reflective Essay**

Contact a public librarian to ask questions related to their preparation for their careers, their current and past work, their professional involvement, their views of public libraries/librarianship, and their plans for the future. Then write a 4-5 pages (1000-1250 words) essay with an appended transcript of your interview.

**Participation**

Participation credit is given for your active involvement in class. This includes daily input and discussion and other in-class work.