

Course Number & Name: LIS 422 - Literacy and Services to Underserved Populations:
Issues and Responses

- **Description:** This course provides an overview of the social, economic, and political impact of adult functional illiteracy in the United States; it discusses the issue at both the federal and state level with implications for library involvement at the community level. Emphasis will be placed on the analysis of the literacy needs of a community and at the development and implementation of programs to meet that need. It will introduce advocacy, training, budgeting, staff recruitment, student assessment and instruction, publicity and program evaluation of both traditional and innovative library-based literacy/ESOL programs; it will suggest approaches to serve traditionally underrepresented communities by exploring how to improve equity of access to those populations.
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Audience (level, environment/setting):** none given; none given
- **Student Learning Outcomes [by number]:** 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10
- **Topics/List of Lectures:**
 - Overview of adult literacy issues; defining the problem; serving diverse learners; role of literacy in society.
 - Examination of adult learning theory
 - Conducting a community needs assessment.
 - Establishing a library-based literacy or ESOL program
 - Program responses within public, community college, institutional and special libraries.
 - Collection development of adult new reader materials; alternate materials.
 - Responding to the newcomer community; connecting with immigrant families
 - Family Literacy: Exploring different models; selecting materials for the family program
 - Designing and developing community collaborations for literacy; community outreach to special populations including homeless, inmates of correctional institutions
 - Discussion of federal support for literacy and outreach; funding issues
 - Proposal writing as a tool for program development
 - Serving people with disabilities; Braille literacy; exploring formats, assistive technology and other appropriate responses
 - Special topics: technology assisted literacy, health literacy; publishing and training adult new writers.

- **Suggested Textbooks/Readings**
 - Johnson, Debra Wilcox. *Let Data Be Your Guide: A Planning Handbook for and by Library Literacy Programs*, Illinois Literacy Resource Development Center, 2000.
 - DeCandido, GraceAnne A., ed. *Literacy & libraries: learning from case studies*. Chicago: Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, American Library Association. 2001.
 - DeLa Peña McCook, Kathleen. *A Place at the Table: Participating in Community Building*. Chicago. American Library Association, 2000.
 - Osborne, Robin, ed. *From Outreach to Equity: Innovative Models of Library Policy and Practice*. Chicago. American Library Association, 2004.
 - Rubin, Rhea. *Planning for Library Services for People with Disabilities*. Chicago. ASCLA, 2002.

- **Course History:**
 - December 2004: moved from two (LIS 520N) to three credits (voted in 12/04)

- **Document prepared by:** Shelley Quezada, 12/04