

**Louisiana State University**  
**School of Library & Information Science**  
**Fall 2021**  
**LIS 7203: Sources of Government Information**

**Instructor Contact Information**

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I will respond to e-mail within 24 hours.  
Mon-Fri 9:00-4:00

**Catalog Description:** Government publications as products of government activity and as sources of information.

**Course description:** We will study government publications as products of government activity and as sources of information for libraries, with particular emphasis placed on federal documents and the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The course will be primarily practice-based, integrating theory where appropriate.

**Course objectives:** Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Use major bibliographic tools, databases, and specific search strategies to locate U.S. government information.
- Gain an understanding of government produced information, including its unique place in the world of information, its important role in society, its relationship to the structure of government, and the processes by which it is produced and disseminated.
- Consider the responsibilities and roles of the U.S. government, other government jurisdictions and libraries in providing public access to government information.
- Gain expertise in specific types of research using federal sources, such as tracing legislative history and finding government produced statistics.
- Explain (to a non-librarian, non-specialist) fundamental issues concerning access to government information.

**Course Requirements:** To achieve these objectives, students are expected to:

- Commit at least nine (9) hours per week to this course in some combination of discussion forum participation, readings, homework, and other assignments as specified in the syllabus.
- Read the assigned text and selected items from the professional literature.
- Complete assignments as outlined in the syllabus and turn them in by the deadlines specified.

**Grading Policies & Calculation:** All assignments are due on the dates indicated in the Course Schedule. Work submitted more than 7 days late without an acceptable excuse will have points deducted and may be refused.

**Grading Scale:**

The course is worth a total of 1000 points. Your final letter grade will be determined as follows:

A	930-1000
A-	900-929
B+	870-899
B	830-869
B-	800-829
C+	770-799
C	730-769
C-	700-729
D+	670-699
D	630-669
D-	600-629
F	0-599

**Assignments Rules & Regs:** *Unless otherwise noted*, assignments are due by 5 minutes to midnight of the due date (11:55 PM). Late work will not be accepted unless previous arrangements have been made with me. The course will be conducted asynchronously. Assignments (including forum participation) will be given with the expectation that they will be completed properly and uploaded, when required, to Moodle by the due date. Readings, especially from the text, will be done during the week they are assigned.

**Links to Online Sources:** If I send you to a link, be prepared for questions on an exam which can only be answered by being familiar with information found via that link.

For example: I ask you to familiarize yourself with the online versions of the *United States Government Manual*. While, at that exact point in the course, I may not have an Exercise Question directly devoted to that publication, assume that an upcoming exam could have a question that is devoted to that publication or requires use of that publication.

**Statement on Academic Misconduct:** You may not resubmit work that has already been used in fulfillment of the requirement of this or any other course. Rules of academic conduct require that you not use the work of others without clearly indicating it as such. Academic misconduct will result in being reported to the LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability office. All students are required to know and abide by the [University's Policy for Academic Integrity and the LSU Code of Student Conduct](#).

**LSU Student Code of Conduct:** The [LSU Student Code of Conduct](#) explains student rights, excused absences, and what is expected of student behavior. Students are expected to understand this code. Any violations of the LSU Student Code will be duly reported to the Dean of Students.

**Information for Students with Disabilities:** LSU policy requires a student who claims disability status to make a formal request for accommodation through the [Office of Disability Services](#), 115 Johnston Hall,

phone 225-578-5919. This office provides the necessary evaluation and recommendations to ensure full participation in the course.

### **Required Textbook**

***Fundamentals of Government Information: Mining, Finding, Evaluating, and Using Government Resources, 2nd ed. 2016***

**\*\*Other readings will be assigned and made available prior to the week due.**

#### WEEK ONE, August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Topic

- Intro to Government Information and Thinking Like a Government Documents Librarian

Readings

- Fundamentals -- Preface, Introduction, Chaps. 1 & 2 (46 pp.)
- [From Ugly Duckling to Swan: The Hidden Beauty in Government Information](#)

#### WEEK TWO, August 30<sup>th</sup>

Topic

- Congress, Part 1

Readings

- Fundamentals, Chap. 3 Congressional Information (27 p.)

#### WEEK THREE, September 6<sup>th</sup>

Topic

- Congress, Part 2

Reading

- [Kosar, Kevin R. "Why I Quit the Congressional Research Service." \*Washington Monthly\*, Jan/Feb 2015.](#) (approximately 4 pages)

#### WEEK FOUR, September 13<sup>th</sup>

Topic

- Public Law and U.S. Code

Readings

- Fundamentals, Chaps. 4 (Introduction to Law) and 5 (Public Laws and the U.S. Code) (23 pp.)

#### WEEK FIVE, September 20<sup>th</sup>

Topic

- Regulations

Readings

- Fundamentals, Chap. 6, Regulations (21 pp.)

#### WEEK SIX, September 27<sup>th</sup>

Topic

- Judiciary/Case Law

Readings

- Fundamentals, Ch. 7, Case Law and the Judicial Branch (17 pp.)

#### WEEK SEVEN, October 4<sup>th</sup>

##### Topic

- The President and Executive Branch Overview

##### Readings

- Fundamentals, Chaps. 8 (The President) and 9 (The Executive Branch) (46 pp.)

#### WEEK EIGHT, October 11<sup>th</sup>

##### Topic

- Government Information in your life

#### WEEK NINE, October 18<sup>st</sup>

##### Topic

- Statistics

##### Readings

- Fundamentals, Chap. 10 Statistical Information (21 pp.)

#### WEEK TEN, October 25<sup>th</sup>

##### Topic

- Education

##### Readings

- Fundamentals, Chap. 12 Education Information (20 pp.)

#### WEEK ELEVEN, November 1<sup>st</sup>

##### Topic

- Sci Tech

##### Readings

- Fundamentals, Chap. 13 Scientific and Technical Information (17 pp.)

#### WEEK TWELVE, November 8<sup>th</sup>

##### Topic

- Business

##### Readings

- Fundamentals, Chap. 15 Business, Economic, and Consumer Information (24 pp.)

#### WEEK THIRTEEN, November 15<sup>th</sup>

##### Topic

- Census

##### Readings

- Fundamentals, Chap. 16 Census (22 pp.)

#### WEEK FOURTEEN, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Thanksgiving Break – No Assignments Due

WEEK FIFTEEN, November 29<sup>th</sup>

Topic

- Research

Readings

- Fundamentals, Chap 18 Historical and Archival Information (22pp.)

WEEK SIXTEEN, December 6<sup>th</sup>

- Final Exam