Instructor: Geoffrey Kirkpatrick
Email: bplgeoff@gmail.com (Email is the best method to reach me. Please include IST618 in the subject line)
Text/Voicemail 518-635-3022
Office hours: By appointment

Description: This course focuses on current issues, practices and trends in public library organizations, planning and service delivery. Topics include levels of governance in public libraries; the role of state charters, systems, and trustees; public, technical and administrative services; and professional development, including career paths, continuing education, and compensation.

Course Design: The course will consist of lectures, guest lectures with questions and answer periods, class presentations, group discussions and site observations.

Goal: To familiarize students with public libraries, currents trends and practices.

Objectives:
- Understand the structure of public libraries in the United States focusing on New York
- Understand the relationships between libraries and other community and government organizations
- Understand the core values and professional ethics of public librarianship
- Define goals and strategies necessary for employment in public libraries

Readings: The required text is available through MaryJane Books (corner of Western and Quail), Amazon.com or the bookstore of your choice. The required text will be supplemented by additional readings.

Required Text
McCook, Kathleen De la Pena, Introduction to public librarianship. 2nd ed. (New York : Neal Schuman Publishers, 2011.) Available at Mary Jane Books.
Additional Readings

OCLC. Perception of Libraries, 2010: context and Community. (Ohio, OCLC 2011)
http://www.oclc.org/reports/2010perceptions.htm

Course Policies:

Class Participation and Attendance: In order to get the full benefit of the course, students are expected to attend class regularly, be punctual, and come prepared. Expect a great deal of class participation and public speaking. Attendance is necessary, in the event of unavoidable absence, students should make arrangements with the instructor in advance. More than one absence per term will result in a five-point deduction per absence. No absences are excused on dates you are expected to do a presentation.

Quality of Work:

Quality is important and good communication skills are critical in your writing and presentations. Your grade will reflect the quality of your work.

Student Performance Evaluation

Grades determined by:
Questions presented to guest speakers 10%
Class blog presentation 10%
Class article presentation 30%
Mid-Term project 20%
Term Project 30%

Questions to guest speakers:
Questions are due by email on the Monday before the session. Quality and originality will be graded. Have at least one question per presenter.

Class blog presentation:
Students will describe the blog they have been assigned. The presentation should include information about the blogger(s), the authority they bring to the posts, the connection to the profession and public libraries in particular. Students should recommend or discourage others from following the blog.

Class article presentation:
Students will present on a topic from a provided list of articles. Each presentation should be no more than twenty minutes or less than ten minutes. A bibliography of related articles, websites, and other materials will be handed in on the evening on the presentation.

Midterm project:
This will be a take home exam. You will receive an article to read and be asked to write a two page presentation about the topic as if you were presenting to the director of the library where you are employed.

**Term Project:**
Public library profile report. Use your assigned public library. Investigate all of the areas covered in class. Most of the questions can be answered through your library’s website. Additional sources of information may be found on your community’s webpages. Library statistical information can be found for each library in the state [http://connect.informata.com](http://connect.informata.com)

Bibliostat Connect Provides New York data back to 1991 from the Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries. (Requires IE 5.0 or greater, other browsers may not work)

Use **new york** as the User ID and **pals** as the Password

This is a comparative database so for the purposes of our class use the Liverpool Public Library as your comparison library.

Knowledge of your library will be a resource for our weekly class discussions. Include the answers to the list of additional questions below:

- What traditional services are offered?
- What electronic services are offered?
- What outreach services are offered?
- What specialized services are offered?
- What innovative or unique services are offered?
- What virtual services are offered?
- How busy is the library? Circulation? Visits? Computer use?
- What networks does the library participate in?
- Does the library have written policies? How many? What for?
- What is the source of funding? Do they have a Friends group? Foundation? If yes, what do the groups fund?
- How does the library communicate with the community? Are there connection to the local news media? Does the local newspaper carry program information about the library?
- Does the library have community meeting rooms?
- Does the library accept ALA’s Freedom to Read & Freedom to View statements?
- How many staff members? Librarians? Clerks?
- How many trustees? Elected? Appointed?
- Does the library have a plan of service or strategic plan for the future?

**Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-95</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>81-85</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>76-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-71</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-66</td>
<td>C</td>
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65-61  D
60 or lower  F

**Academic Integrity:**
Please see the Graduate Studies “Academic Integrity, Conduct & Research Regulations” page for information about academic integrity standards, examples of dishonesty, and possible penalties: [http://www.albany.edu/gradstudies/academics/a4.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/gradstudies/academics/a4.shtml)

Everything produced for this course should be your own work and unique to this course. Failure to follow the university guidelines is a serious infraction and you will receive zero points for the work in question. Other more serious penalties include a failing grade for the course, referral to the University Judicial System, or dismissal from the University.

**Learning Accommodations:**
Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Director of Disabled Student Services (Campus Center 137, 442-5490) For more information see [http://www.albany.edu/studentlife/DSS/guidelines/accomodation.html](http://www.albany.edu/studentlife/DSS/guidelines/accomodation.html)