

**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
School of Information Studies  
Seminar in International and Multicultural Information Services 540-840**

**Course Syllabus**

**Course Instructor: Professor Mohammed M. Aman, Ph.D.**  
**Dean of SOIS 1979-2003; Interim dean of the School of Education and Chancellor's Deputy  
for Education Partnerships, (2000-2001), Editor, *Digest of Middle East Studies (DOMES)*,  
Higher education and International Library Consultant Office: Bolton 560.**  
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**If you are a student with special needs, please discuss this with the instructor as soon as possible.**

**Course Description:**

Implications of global and multicultural trends for information services. Creation, diffusion and use of information in cross-cultural settings. In addition to the study of international and comparative librarianship, the course also addresses issues of localism versus globalism with regard to library services to multicultural and ethnic groups as well as information sources and services for the new Americans.

**Course Objectives:**

- Introducing students to the various aspects of international and comparative librarianship
- Help students understand and appreciate cultural differences and values other than those of North America
- Introduce students to the different education systems in other countries.
- Prepare students for careers as area studies librarians, information specialists in international organizations, and in foreign countries,
- Help students understand and debate issues of library service to ethnic groups; censorship; freedom to read and the role of libraries in a democratic and civil society

**Outcomes & Competencies to be Gained:**

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Identify appropriate sources of information for the selection of materials suitable for the special library population as well as the literature of international librarianship and multiculturalism
- Develop an understanding of the importance and value of diversity in organizations in general and libraries/information agencies in particular
- Identify best practices for developing programs and services to new Americans, other minorities and special populations

- Become familiar with the sources of funding for multicultural services, collections and programs;
- Develop an understanding of the educational, socio-economic, and political issues affecting the development of libraries and information services in other countries
- Identify issues related to the development and impact of e-government and e-democracy in countries outside North America

### **Course Materials & Required Readings:**

It is recommended that the students buy, borrow, or locate in or through their libraries the following books: **Rosemary Du Mont, et al. *Multiculturalism in Libraries*. Greenwood Press, 1994. (ISBN 0-313-28418-0), Riggs, D.E., & Tarin, P.A. (1994). *Cultural Diversity in Libraries*. New York, NY: Neal-Shuman Publishers, Inc. and Kathleen de la Pena Cook, et al *Libraries: Global Reach Local Touch*. ALA, 1998. (Z721.L61998; ISBN 0-8389-0738-5--out-of-print)**. These are valuable books that you will enjoy reading and keeping some for your personal professional collection. They cover topics that we will discuss in the seminar such as international developments in library and information systems, materials and services to ethnic and cultural minorities, ethnographic and sociological research that impact these areas. Also, there are additional materials (lectures notes, video lectures, readings, etc.) available through the 'course materials' link on the course site or at your nearby library which you should visit regularly or use ILL frequently.

### **Weekly Calendar:**

**Week 01 Introduction, Course Requirements and Expectations. Submit your brief resume to the class as part of the get acquainted requirement for the course. Instructor's resume can be viewed at [www.uwm.edu/~aman](http://www.uwm.edu/~aman)**

**Week 02 L The Importance of Cultural Diversity**

**Week 03 Library Services to Ethnic Minorities**

**Week 04 Information Sources of Value to M/C Librarians**

**Week 05 Globalism and Globalization in Librarianship Midterm Paper on L&I Services & resources to a Specific Ethnic Group Due**

**Week 06 Libraries and Information Services in Europe**

**Week 07 L&I Services in Latin America Submit an abstract of the paper you wish to write for final term paper and receive approval from Professor Aman.**

**Week 08 L&I Services in Africa and the Middle East Book Report/Review Assignment Due**

**Week 9 L&I Services in Asia and Southeast Asia**

**Week 10 Area Studies Librarianship**

**Week 11 I. International Organizations; II. Globalization and Higher Education  
Report on Two Web sites Due**

**Week 12 E-government & E-Democracy Outside the U.S.**

**Week 13-14 Student's-Lead Discussions on their term Papers**

**Week 14 Final Term Paper Due; Students complete Course Evaluation Form online**

### **Course Requirements & Assignments:**

This is an advanced seminar and therefore there will be no midterm and final exams. Instead discussions and papers are required for submission on time and according to the guidelines described in this syllabus. Because this is a three-week course, students are expected to think along the line of a class meeting three times a week in order to complete the assigned, readings, reports and postings on the discussion board.

**1. Assigned Reading and Participation in Discussions (20 points)**

Students' active class participation is required. Students are expected to read all assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them online. On several occasions particular issues and readings will be assigned to individual students who will be asked to lead discussions.

**2. Evaluate two web sites dealing with international issues in culture, education, information, librarianship. Review and comment on four web sites of international organizations in same fields. (10 points)**

**3. Book Report/Review (the title must be approved by the Professor Aman and does not duplicate another student's selection) (10 points)**

**4. Midterm Paper on Library Service & Program to a minority/ethnic group (30 points).** Length of paper 10-15 pages single space, use *APA or Chicago Style Manuals* for citations and references. Submit your paper to the assignment digital drop box by the specified deadline. You must have your topic approved in advance. Written work is supposed to be proof-read and checked for grammatical errors, spelling and proper punctuation. See Sample topics below, but feel free to add your own, but make sure you obtain Prof. Aman's approval before writing:

**A. Infometric study on an aspect of multiculturalism**

**B. How are ethnic groups served by libraries?**

**C. Develop an annotated bibliography or webliography on one of the topics discussed in the course (recommended materials, websites, databases, etc. for an ethnic or multicultural group**

**D. Develop a research topic and apply appropriate and relevant research methodology**

**5. End of Term Paper on International Library/Information Services (30 points) . Length of paper 15-20 pages, single space, use *APA or Chicago Style Manuals* for citations and references. Submit your paper to the assignment digital drop box by the specified deadline. You must have your topic approved in advance. Written work is supposed to be proof-read and checked for grammatical errors, spelling and proper punctuation. Address the issue of globalization and international library and information services. See sample topics below, but feel free to choose your own and receive approval from Professor Aman prior to writing:**

1. **Discuss the history of libraries in a given country or region**
2. **Biography/bibliography of a leader in international librarianship**
3. **Infometric study on an aspect of international librarianship**
4. **The Global digital divide and the impact of widening gap between the information-rich and the information-poor around the globe**
5. **What are the issues facing book and media publishing in countries outside North America?**
6. **What role(s) has UNESCO played in developing libraries and information systems in developing countries?**
7. **Discuss the modern history of libraries in a given country or region**
8. **Compare education programs for L&IS in one or more than one country or region.**
9. **Role of libraries in a democracy in developing countries**
10. **Censorship, freedom of expression & libraries**
11. **Role of libraries in shaping democratic and civic societies**
12. **Libraries and e-government in a foreign country**

**\*About the Book Report**

**Post your selection of a book on the Discussion Board, so others will not select the same title. You may select a book from list A, B or C below or similar/more current titles:**

**Group**

**A:**

**Amoia, A. & Knapp, B. L. (2004). Multicultural Writers Since 1945: An A-to-Z Guide Book. Westport CT: Greenwood Press.**

*Arab Human Development Report (2002). Building a Knowledge Society.* N.Y.: UNDP. 217p. \$23.00 e-copy \$10.00 ISBN: 92-1-126-157-0

**Banks, J. A. & Banks, C. A. M. (2003). Handbook of Research on Multicultural Education. 2nd Edition Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons.**

**Day, F. A. (1999). *Multicultural Voices in Contemporary Literature: A Resource for Teachers.* N.Y.: Heinemann**

*Directory of Ethnic & Multicultural Publishers, Distributors & Resource Organizations, 5th ed. (2003), compiled and edited by Vladimir F. Werstman with introduction and annotated bibliography by David Cohen. Niles, IL: C.M.M.C., Ltd. (lists 528 ethnic entries, 42 university publishing houses, 25 multicultural bibliographic resources).*

**Harris, V. J., ed. (1997). *Using Multiethnic Literature in the K-8 Classroom.* Norwood, MA: Christopher-Gordon Publishers.**

**Johnson, Laura and Sally Smith. *Dealing with Diversity Through Multicultural Fiction.* ???**

**Jweid, R. & Rizzo, M (2004). *Building Character Through Multicultural Literature: A Guide to Middle School Readers.* Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Education.**

**Krzs, R. & G. Litton (1983). *World Librarianship: A Comparative Study.* New York: Marcel Dekker.**

**Vaagan, Robert W. (ed.). (2002). *The Ethics of Librarianship: An International Survey.* IFLA Publications 101. Munchen: K.G. Saur. 344 p.**

**Lang, Jovia P. , ed. (1988). *Unequal Acces to Information Resources: Problems and Needs of the World's Information Poor.* Ann Arbor, MI: Pierian Press.**

**Meyer-Duran, C (1993). *Gatekeepers in Ethnolinguistic Communities.* Norwood, NJ: Ablex.**

**McCook, Penna. *Global Reach-Local Touch.* Cicago: ALA.**

**Quintero, E.P. (2004). *Problem-posing with Multicultural Children's Literature: Developing Early Childhood Curricula.* N.Y.: P. Lang**

**Mowlana, Hamid (1986). *Global Information and World Communication: New Frontiers on International Relations.* New York: Longman.**

**Reese, Gregory L. and Ernestine L. Hawkins (1999). *Stop Talking. Start Doing! Attracting People of Color to the Library Profession.* Chicago: ALA. 136p. ISBN 0-8389-0762-8**

**Riggs, D.E., & Tarin, P.A. (1994). *Cultural Diversity in Libraries.* New York, NY: Neal-Shuman Publishers, Inc.**

Richardson, Diane and Steven Seidman, eds. (2002). *Handbook of Lesbian and Gay Studies*. Sage Publications. 472p. --ISBN 0-7619-6511-4

Schulman, M. (1998). *Cultures in Contrast*. Ann Arbor, MI.

**Group  
B:**

Mendez, Frank S. (2005). *You Can't Be Mexican: You Talk Just Like Me*. Kent State University Press, 2005. 96p. ISBN 0-87338-822-4

Royer, Esther and Ayers (2005). *Rolling Down Black Stockings: A Passage Out of the Older Order Mennonite Religion*. Kent State Univeristy. 2005. 192p. ISBN 0-87338-828-3

Three books by the Jewish Nobel Prize Winner S. Agnon. They are: *A Guest for the Night*; *In the Heart of the Seas* and *Two Tales*.

**Group  
C:**

**Those of you are interested in literature for K-12, you may wish to select and report on one of the following books or another like them.**

1. Beals, Melba Pattillo, *\*WARRIORS DON'T CRY* (abridged)
2. Carlson, Lori [editor], *\*WHERE ANGELS GLIDE AT DAWN*
3. Choi, Sook Nyul, *YEAR OF IMPOSSIBLE GOODBYES*
4. Crew, Linda, *CHILDREN OF THE RIVER*
5. Dawson, Candy Boyd, *CHARLIE PIPPIN*
6. Hansen, Joyce, *\*THE CAPTIVE*
8. Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki, *\*FAREWELL TO MANZANAR*
9. Levoy, Myron, *ALAN AND NAOMI*
10. Lyons, Mary E., *LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL: THE STORY OF HARRIET JACOBS*
11. Meyer, Carolyn, *\*RIO GRANDE STORIES*

12. Meyer, Carolyn, \*WHERE THE BROKEN HEART STILL BEATS
13. Meyers, Walter Dean, SCORPIONS
14. Mohr, Nicholasa, \*FELITA
15. Rana, Indi, THE ROLLER BIRDS' OF RAMPUR
16. Soto, Gary, BASEBALL IN APRIL AND OTHER STORIES
17. Temple, Frances, \*TASTE OF SALT: A STORY OF MODERN HAITI
18. Wangerin, Walter, \* THE CRYING FOR A VISION
19. Wiesel, Elie, \* NIGHT
20. Yep, Laurence, \*THE AMERICAN DRAGONS
21. Yolen, Jane, \*BRIAR ROSE

**Examples of Class Projects & Assignments:**

Samples of Web sites evaluation are found below: [840-Web site evaluations\[1\].doc](#); [Example of Evaluation of Web Sites.doc](#); [840-Website Review 1\[1\].doc](#); [840-websites eval.\[1\].doc](#); [840-websites eval.-culture\[1\].doc](#)

Examples of book reports: [840-book report.doc](#); [840-Book Report-Kawatra final copy\[1\].doc](#); [840-bookreport02.doc](#)

Examples of country reports: Examples of book reviews/reports: ; [840-Nigeria Area Studies Report\[1\].doc](#); [840-China \[1\].doc](#); [840-Mexico Area Studies Report\[1\].doc](#); [840-Vietnam.doc](#)