Universal Usability (LBSC 622)—3 credit hours
Spring 2011

Course description
This course follows Diverse Populations, Inclusion and Information (LBSC 620) and builds on the concepts of that course. This course focuses on the use and challenges of information services and technologies to provide equal experiences and outcomes to all users. Laws, standards, approaches, component concepts, access needs, and technologies in relation to physical and online information environments.

Goals of this course are to increase participant’s knowledge of
- The limitations that many diverse populations experience in their desire to gain information for education and for pleasure
- The need for libraries to improve the technology available to the special needs of their patrons
- The types of materials that should be part of every collection
- The variety of programming options that should be available, at minimal cost
- The ways in which libraries can take on a leadership role in assuring Universal Usability to all of their patrons both within their buildings and within the community
- Organizations with which libraries may wish to partnership to increase services to diverse populations

Week 1: Overview of Conceptual Approaches, Part I (January 26)

Week 2: Overview of Conceptual Approaches, Part II (February 2)

Week 3: Meanings and Types of Access (February 9)

Week 4: Access in the Current Economic Climate (February 16)


**WEEK 5: ACCESSIBILITY (FEBRUARY 23)**


**WEEK 6: UNIVERSAL DESIGN (MARCH 2)**


**WEEK 7: UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND USABILITY (MARCH 9)**


**WEEK 8: OUTLETS FOR ACCESS (MARCH 16)**

**WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK (MARCH 23)**

**WEEK 10: ACCESS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS (MARCH 30)**

**WEEK 11: ACCESS AND DISABILITY (APRIL 6)**
Lazar, J., & Wentz, B. (2011). This isn’t your version: Separate but equal Web site interfaces are inherently unequal for people with disabilities. *User Experience, 10*(2).

**WEEK 12: ACCESS AND EDUCATION (APRIL 13)**

**WEEK 13: ACCESS AND LITERACY (APRIL 20)**

**WEEK 14: ACCESS AND LIBRARIES (APRIL 27) - FINAL PROJECTS DUE**
The four issue area descriptions on the Public Libraries and the Internet website at [http://www.plinternetsurvey.org/?q=Issue-Areas](http://www.plinternetsurvey.org/?q=Issue-Areas)
The four issue briefs on the same site at [http://www.plinternetsurvey.org/?q=node/17](http://www.plinternetsurvey.org/?q=node/17)
The Pasco County Library Cooperative’s Pasco County Library Cooperative – e-government resources at http://www.pascolibraries.org/egovtools.shtml

**WEEK 15: COURSE WRAP-UP (MAY 4)**
No readings
Final projects returned

**Course Projects**
All written materials for the course should be double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font. The margins should be 1 inch exactly on each side. Citations—both in the text and in the references section—must conform to the most recent APA style manual. Pages should be numbered and format should be consistent.

Annotated Bibliography – For each reading in the course, write a short summary (about a paragraph) of the key points you saw in the reading OR write several paragraphs discussing all of the readings for a week as a group. As the semester progresses, mention any primary linkages or themes across the papers as you find theme.

Research Paper – Select a topic related to the course that is of particular interest and explore the topic in detail. The paper should include a review of the related research and professional literature; the key themes across the literature; important areas not addressed in the literature; and areas of research that need to be addressed in the future. The paper should be approximately 20 pages.