

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

Course Title	Library and Information Ethics		
Course Code	LIS 231	Number of Credits	3
Department	English	Faculty	Humanities
Pre-requisites Course Code	None	Co-requisites Course Code	None
Course Coordinator	Dr. M. Mokhathi-Mbhele		
Email	m.ramahloli@yahoo.com	Telephone no.	22340601 Ext 3932
Other Course Teacher(s) Tutors(s)	Assoc Prof MM Moshoeshoe-Chadzingwa		
Learning Hours	Total : 48 (3x16) Learning hours Lecture (48 hours)		
Student Quota	No limit		
Course Type	Compulsory		
Offer in Academic Year	2 nd Semester		
COURSE DESCRIPTION:			
<p>The course introduces students to concepts of ethics in general, and information ethics specifically. The Course aims to impart knowledge to learners, of information ethics and understanding the legal aspects as pertaining production, use, management and ownership of information and information services. The aim is for students to appreciate the importance of the protection of the rights of all stakeholders thereon. The issue of legal aspects in terms of Access to, Availability and use of information is looked at in relation to the historical practices of ownership of information, versus access. Learners are then exposed to latest trends worldwide & in such matters as Professionalism, Open Access, Copyright, Marrakesh Treaty, Digital Wellness, users with physical disabilities such as the VIPs and the role of professional bodies locally and globally.</p>			
COURSE OBJECTIVES			
<p>The Course plans to raise awareness that there are three groups in the business of LIS, namely, the provider of the service and the beneficiaries of the library service and the intermediaries, the brokers or librarians. Essentially, all have rights, yet circumstances make it easy for one group to violate the rights of one, two or more groups.</p> <p>The caveats are: The profession should uphold professionalism in its dealings with clients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information clients have rights, at the same time they have responsibilities to use information responsibly and to respect the rights of information providers ○ Clients should respect the rights of other clients ○ Information Ethics and Technological prospects and challenges ○ There are legal issues that affect various major group such as authors, 			

publishers, users of published works, librarians, etc.

- Librarians' Code of Conduct and Professional bodies locally and globally (Local Associations and Consortia, IFLA, WIPO and EIFL).

GUIDELINES ON GRADING AND STANDARDS OF ASSESSMENT

General Course Descriptors

A (80+)	This category will apply to the work that demonstrates evidence of original thought, strong analytical and critical abilities as well as a thorough grasp of language skills and information retrieval skills
B (70-79)	This category will apply to the work that demonstrates evidence of critical and analytical thinking but not necessarily original in their thinking; show adequate grasp of the topic from background reading and analysis; should demonstrate strong organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills
C(60-69)	This category will apply to the work that demonstrates evidence of a reasonable grasp of their subject but most of their information is derivative, with rather little evidence of critical thinking; should demonstrate fair organizational, rhetorical and presentational skills
D(50-59)	This category will apply to the work that demonstrates evidence of being able to assemble the bare minimum of information, poorly digested and not very well organized in presentation. There is no evidence of critical thinking
E (40-49)	This category will apply to the work that demonstrates evidence of poor knowledge and understanding of the subject, a lack of coherence and organization, and answers are largely irrelevant. Work fails to reach degree level.
F (39 and Below)	This category will apply to the work that demonstrates no understanding of the subject matter, the work that is wanting in terms of organization. This is the work that is out-rightly substandard.

COURSE CONTENT

Course topics include:

1. Concepts of Information Ethics
2. The profession in general and professionalism in LIS, Professional Bodies
3. Code of Ethics
4. Intellectual Property and Copyright
5. Open Access Movement, Accessibility & Licensing (Consumers vs Providers)
6. The role of librarians and library services in being aware, raising awareness and protecting the rights of all (including VIPs) so that there is effective use

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the aim of User studies in a given situation
- Define library User studies within the context of library and

Aligned Course Learning Outcomes

1
2

information use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the evolution of user studies from the Reference/reader services era to digital library usage • Explain key terms in “user studies”, namely categories of users, information-seeking behavior and client-oriented services • List issues that are to be considered when interrogating the information provision environment/climate • Discuss, analyze and critique issues and challenges of user studies within the context of Southern Africa and Lesotho • Identify reports, surveys and studies of relevance and interests to the local situation, and finally give own examples and/or follow up photo-type studies. 	3 4
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COURSE TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Course Teaching and Learning Activities	Aligned Course Learning Outcomes
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This is a four contact hours course weekly (4 x 1 hour lectures)

In this course, there will be four hours of course teaching and learning activities:

1. Lectures	1, 2, 3
2. Practical work/presentation	1, 2, 3
3. Interactive class discussion and brainstorming	1, 2, 3

COURSE ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcomes
Tests/Assignments	Students will be given three tests, and one individual assignment	50	1,2,3
Examination	Final examinations will be written at the end of the semester	50	2, 3, 4

ESSENTIAL READINGS: (Journals, textbooks)

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1. Botswana Lib Assoc Code of Ethics
2. Concise Oxford English Dictionary. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3. Concepts in Information Ethics – an introductory workbook, edited by Candice le Suer and Coetzee Bester, 2013
4. Copyright for Librarians – the essential handbook 2013. Berkman Center for Internet and Society. Bekman Centre and EIFL
5. Information Ethics in Africa: Cross-cutting themes 2013. Edited by Dennis Ocholla, Johannes Brits, Rafael Capurro and Coetzee Bester
6. Ijeoma, J. Ibegbulam and Jacintha U. Eze (2015). Knowledge, perception and attitude of Nigerian students to plagiarism: A case study (In: IFLA Journal 41(June, 2015) No.2 : pp 120-128
Nigeria Library Association Code of Ethics
7. Opara N. Umunna (2010) Professionalizing the library and Information Science profession in Nigeria IN (IFLA Journal Vol 36 no.2 (June 2010) pp 155-166
8. Moshoeshoe-Chadzingwa, MM (201) A study of the existing Library and Library-related legislation with a view to drawing a lesson towards the Lesotho National Library Services Act IN: Lesotho Law Journal Vol 17(1) 2007 pp 106-127
9. Rubin, T. (1949) Foundations of Library and Information Services, 2nd ed.
10. etc

MEANS/PROCESSES FOR STUDENT FEEDBACK ON COURSE

Students will fill in the course evaluation form at the end of each quarter (i.e. twice every semester).

COURSE POLICY (INCLUDING PLAGIARISM, ACADEMIC HONESTY, ATTENDANCE etc):

Unless otherwise stated, the normal course administration policies and rules of the Faculty of Humanities apply. For the policy, see <http://www.nul.ls>

The University Regulations on academic misconduct will be strictly enforced. Please refer to <http://www.nul/student/plagiarisms> for further details. In addition, students should familiarize themselves with <http://www.nul.nul.ls>

General health and safety information can be obtained from <http://www.nul.ls/health> and safety

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

The course coordinator plus lecturer are available for consultations respectively at i) the times that are displayed on the coordinator's office notice board, and ii) One hour (14.30 – 15.30 on Mondays and Tuesdays. Queries may also be emailed to ma.kolobe@nul.ls or mamahlope@gmail.com

ACADEMIC COUNCIL APPROVAL

Signature:

M. Mokhathi-Mbhele Academic Year: 2016/17

