COURSE DESCRIPTION (FROM THE FACULTY OF INFORMATION'S ACADEMIC REGULATIONS)
Reading courses serve as a way to meet the needs of individual students who wish to explore topics not covered by courses currently offered at the iSchool. They are categorized as elective courses, and are subject to the same regulations as other elective courses. Reading Courses require that student and instructor meet regularly and frequently; therefore, both must be available for meetings on campus. The written work of a Reading Course is comparable to that of other elective courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
In this reading course on the Serious Leisure Perspective (SLP), a theoretical framework of leisure, students will develop:

- Understanding of the SLP including its: intellectual history; strengths and weaknesses as a theoretical framework; application as a classification system; and main types (casual leisure, serious pursuits, project-based leisure) and sub-types.
- Familiarity with social scientific concepts related to the SLP (social world, lifestyle, flow, and recreation specialization).
- Expertise in one specialized leisure activity and/or population (varies per student) within the SLP and an ability to approach it as a research object.
- Knowledge of the positive turn in the social sciences and its implications for scholarship.
- Awareness of research and collaboration at the intersection of the fields of leisure studies and information studies.
- Cognizance of the emerging literature in information studies about leisure.
- Enhanced skill in academic practice and increased confidence as a junior scholar.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS
As a reading course the primary activity is independent student reading and reflection, guided by the instructor. The course is supplemented with learning exercises; bimonthly meetings of a peer discussion group; a visit by the architect of the SLP, Robert A. Stebbins; online searching and literature reviews; and a bibliographical final assignment. The schedule for the semester loosely follows the intellectual history of the SLP. Assigned readings favor original publications by Stebbins; later synthesis and alternative perspectives are provided for contrast.

PREREQUISITES & REQUIREMENTS
This is an advanced graduate seminar and suits students who have already established interest in and knowledge of leisure-related information practice. It requires an ability to engage literature independently and to discuss ideas in a small group environment.
EVALUATION
The course will be evaluated based upon successful completion of the assignments, summarized in the following table. Feedback on performance will be provided verbally by the instructor throughout the semester. This reading course and its assignments are graded as satisfactory (A) or unsatisfactory (B).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Several hours of independent reading per week of materials assigned in the Reading Guide. Additional independent literature searching and reading of scholarly publications about a specialized leisure activity and/or population (varies per student).</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Attending the bimonthly discussion group; leading one discussion session; coordinating and participating in the visit of Dr. Robert A Stebbins (February 10-14, 2013).</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliographical Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Developing an annotated rigorous systematic bibliography (Bates, 1992) or bibliographic essay (White, 1992) about your specialized population. The paper will include at least 25 new items (not already in the syllabus). The bibliographical paper should demonstrate your fluency in the literature surrounding your specialized population.</td>
<td>Friday, April 5, 2013 (last day of the semester) at 5:00 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

COURSE WEBSITE ON BLACKBOARD
A course website will be maintained on Blackboard at http://portal.utoronto.ca. The website will take shape organically over the course of the semester to meet student’s learning needs. Technical questions about Blackboard can be emailed to portal.help@utoronto.ca.

SPECIAL EVENT AND COLLOQUIUM
The architect of the SLP, Robert A. Stebbins, will visit the Faculty of Information, February 10-14, 2013. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about the SLP from its founder, a renown social scientist. Students of the reading course will help to organize and host his visit, which includes a public colloquium, social events, and a meeting with the discussion group. Dr. Stebbins will join our discussion group on Monday, February 11; his colloquium talk (abstract, below) is a required event for those in the reading course.

"Leisure, Information, and Self-Directed Learning" by Robert A. Stebbins, FRSC

The three forms of leisure comprising the serious leisure perspective (SLP) --- serious, casual, and project-based leisure --- are presented. Their differential relationship to information is then explored. Next, self-directed learning (SDL) is introduced as a type of information behavior and a critical intervening process by which leisure and information are linked in the pursuit of free-time activities. The object of this paper is twofold: to examine the nature of the information acquired in pursuing leisure activities and to examine the ways this is done.

COURSE SCHEDULE
Our reading course is organized around six blocks that last two weeks each. This Reading Guide defines four blocks (Block 1, 2, 3, 4); the final two blocks (Block 5, 6) will be customized to the interests that emerge earlier in the course. Each block has two dimensions: a general level and an personal agenda. The general level is essential for all students and introduces fundamental concepts of the SLP and issues at the intersection of leisure studies and information studies. The general level is guided by the instructor; embodied in the assigned readings; and covered in the discussion group. The individual level entails the various narrower interests of each participant in the course. Specific foci take the form of a leisure activity and/or population. This level is pursued independently via literature searching, reading, reflection, a bibliographical paper, and one-on-one exchanges with the instructor.
Block 1: The "Positive Turn;" Origins of the SLP; "The Project;" Amateurs; Concatenated Exploration

General Level

Discussion Group: January 12, 3:00-5:00; Discussion host is Prof. Hartel.


Personal Agenda

Select a leisure activity and/or population as your specific topic; at this point you do not have to use the terminology of the SLP. Implement a system to save bibliographic references related to your specific topic and this reading course. Create a list of the search terms, subject headings, and descriptors associated with your specific topic; be prepared to share these during the discussion group. Seek academic reference materials on your topic from encyclopedias, dictionaries, fact books, and handbooks. Locate academic books on your topic from the University of Toronto catalogue and WorldCat. Identify scholars or experts on your topic and correspond with them if appropriate. Make an appointment with the instructor to discuss your topic and research progress thus far. Read, organize, and reflect on all of the above; these tasks will continue over the duration of the semester.

Block 2: Elaboration of the SLP

General Level

Discussion Group: January 28, 3:00-5:00; Discussion host is Brian.


### Personal Agenda

Go to the Bibliography at the SLP website and determine where your specific topic fits in the categories; retrieve and read any items relevant to your topic. Locate popular books on your topic from *WorldCat* and/or the TPL; retrieve any that seem valuable. Via UTOR e-resources, go to the journal *Leisure Studies* and *Leisure Sciences*; browse the TOCs for the past 10 years; look for material of relevance to your topic. Read, organize, and reflect on all of the above; these tasks will continue over the duration of the semester. Make an appointment with the instructor to discuss your topic and research progress thus far (optional).


#### General Level

Discussion Group: February 11, 3:00-5:00; Discussion host is John; Robert A. Stebbins is our special guest!


**Personal Agenda**

From U of T e-resources go to *Dissertation & Thesis Full Text* and search for your topic. From U of T e-resources go to interdisciplinary databases (*Scholar’s Portal, Project Muse, Web of Knowledge*) and search for your topic. Visit Digital Library at the SLP website and review the series "Leisure Reflections" by Robert A. Stebbins; select and read any relevant to your topic. Read, organize, and reflect on all of the above; these tasks will continue over the duration of the semester. Make an appointment with the instructor to discuss your topic and research progress thus far (optional).

**Block 4: The SLP and Information Phenomena**

**General Level**

Discussion Group: February 25, 3:00-5:00; Discussion host is David.


🎉 Personal Agenda

Locate writings on your topic in information studies. Go to subject databases (at http://resource.library.utoronto.ca/a-z/subject.cfm?subject=57) and search comprehensively. Valuable articles may not mention your topic but discuss an information-related concept of great relevance. Locate and skim the special issue of Library Trends on serious leisure. Read, organize, and reflect on all of the above; these tasks will continue over the duration of the semester. Make an appointment with the instructor to discuss your topic and research progress thus far (optional).

Block 5: Topic TBD

🎉 General Level - TBD

Discussion Group: March 11, 3:00-5:00; Discussion host is Reagan.

🎉 Personal Agenda - TBD

Block 6: Topic TBD

🎉 General Level - TBD

Discussion Group: March 25, 3:00-5:00; Discussion host is Prof. Hartel

🎉 Personal Agenda - TBD

Happy Reading