

IS 495
Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone
Summer 2015

Instructor: Jim Fulkerson
Office: Cherry Hall 226C
Phone: 270-745-6502 (Office) 270-879-4000 (Home)
Hours: Summer hours are by appointment only
Email: jim.fulkerson@wku.edu

Introduction:

Examination of interdisciplinary scholarship and problem-solving, with application based on students' area of emphasis in the major.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

Unit I...

- Know that the dictionary definitions for the word *Interdisciplinary* are not adequate for understanding what is interdisciplinary study,
- Understand that while the term *interdisciplinary* is a relatively recent one, the concept of *interdisciplinarity* is much older,
- Obtain an initial understanding of what is a discipline,
- Understand why it is important for interdisciplinary majors to know about the history of the American University system, the emergence of disciplines, and the emergence of interdisciplinary study in the university,
- Become aware how interdisciplinary studies degree programs emerged in the United States,
- Know that there are a number of related terms associate with interdisciplinarity,

Unit II...

- Learn the most authoritative meanings for *multidisciplinary*, *transdisciplinary*, and *crossdisciplinary*,
- Understand the distinctions between multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary,
- Understand the distinctions between transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary,
- Understand the difference between instrumental, conceptual, and critical interdisciplinary studies,

Unit III...

- Understand what is a metaphor,
- Understand what is a simile
- Become familiar with some of the more common metaphors for describing interdisciplinarity and interdisciplinary studies,
- Learn how to utilize metaphors to conceptualize and articulate your degree,
- Learn how metaphors encourage interdisciplinary thinking,

Unit IV...

- Understand some of the reasons why students choose to become interdisciplinary studies majors,
- Become familiar with some common personality traits shared among interdisciplinarians,
- Become familiar with some psychological traits of interdisciplinarians,
- Recognize which interdisciplinary characteristics you may have,

Unit V...

- Understand better why you chose interdisciplinary studies as your major,
- Explain to others why you are an interdisciplinarian,
- Tell your life story as an interdisciplinarian,

Unit VI...

- List and understand the criticisms lodged against interdisciplinary studies,

- “Defend” your degree persuasively,
- List some of the advantages of interdisciplinary studies,
- Demonstrate their understanding of the role of scholarly research in the academic setting,
- Demonstrate and apply analytical tools gained from their own disciplinary studies,
- Understand how interdisciplinary projects begin,
- Know what employers like about interdisciplinary studies majors,

VII...

- Understand what are portfolios,
- Recognize different kinds of portfolios,
- Know what is an artifact,
- Generate your own artifacts,
- Be familiar with the history of portfolios,
- Create your own portfolios

Possible Readings:

Excerpts from *The Oxford Handbook of Interdisciplinarity* edited by R. Frodeman, J. Thompson-Klein and C. Mitcham

Excerpt from *Interdisciplinary Research* by Allen F. Repko

Excerpts from *Interdisciplinarity* by Joe Moran

Assignments:

Students receive a class schedule and assignment list. The assignment list needs to be read and assignments completed before coming to class. Assignments are important to class lectures, discussion and activities, therefore, the student must be prepared.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes and be on time. Any student missing without prior approval will be dropped from the course. When missing a class, it is the responsibility of the student to inquire regarding missed assignments or any other work.

Participation:

Willingness to participate in class as well as small group discussion is imperative. Failure to participate will seriously impact one's final grade. Note: Participation is more than occupying a seat and nodding one's head from time to time.

Preparation for class:

When work has been assigned, students will be expected to be prepared to discuss as well as turn in work on the due dates. Work turned in after the due date will receive only one-half credit.

Course Supplies:

Three ring binder; Insertable Ring Book Indexes

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES who require accommodations (academic adjustments and or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability

Services, Downing Student Center Room A 201. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 or TTY 745-3030. Please do not request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter of accommodations from the Office for Student Disability Services.

CHEATING:

No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay (paper), assignment or project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances and applies to all work prepared for this class Such as exams, in-class assignments, homework and or papers (individually or group).

Grading:

Assignment	Points Possible	Your Tally
Autobiography Power Point	100	
Final Examination	100	
Group Power Point Presentation	200	
Handout (In class Assignments (10)	100	
Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator Paper	100	
Portfolio	400	
Grand Total	1000	

A = 1000-900; B = 899-800; C= 799-700; D = 699-600; F = 599-0

Note: A Rubric will be provided for all assignment.
Chapter 1 & 2 are located on your blackboard site. All other chapters will be handed out in class.

Topic & Assignment Schedule

Assignments for May 21:

1. Go to the following website (www.humanmetrics.com) and complete the typology quiz. Upon completion and scoring of the quiz, print out the information sheet that gives you a four letter code and percentages. (Example: E N F P) (92 78 67 79)
2. Prepare a list of all the classes you have completed in your area of emphasis as well as the support courses (typed)(be sure to save this assignment as we will be referring to it often as well as making possible changes).
3. Read Chapter 1 - Defining Interdisciplinary Studies
4. Read chapter 2 – Tracing the Origins of Interdisciplinarity

May 21 Introductions; Syllabus; Handouts; Assignments; Ice Breaker;
What are Interdisciplinary Studies?
Unit 1 - Objectives
Academic Disciplines
Activity: Complex Problems & Disciplines (AIDS; Terrorism; Capital Punishment; National Debt)
Emergence of Interdisciplinary programs in American Universities & Colleges
Exercise: Handout (In-class Activity)
Our definitions of IS
Exercise: Handout (In-class Activity)
Humanmetrics.com (Meyers Briggs Type Indicator) (E/I; S/N) Discussion/Activities

Assignment for May 28:

1. **Autobiography Presentation (Create a power point presentation on your “identity.”)**
 - a. Family background
 - b. Siblings (husband, wife, etc.)
 - c. Hobbies
 - d. Goals (future plans)
2. Complete “Interdisciplinary Studies Degree Program Internet Research Worksheet”
3. Complete – any handout assigned in previous class
4. Read “Five Arguments Against Interdisciplinary Studies”
5. Read “The Case for Interdisciplinary Studies: Response to Professor Benson’s Five Arguments”

May 28 Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator (T/F; J/P)
Unit II & III
Disciplines
Multidisciplinarity, Interdisciplinarity, Transdisciplinarity, Cross-disciplinarity
Exercise: Handout (In-class Activity)
Instrumental Indisciplinarity, Conceptual Interdisciplinarity, Critical Interdisciplinarity

Exercise: Handout (In-class Activity)

The Power of Metaphors

Exercise: Handouts (In-class Activity)

Advantages and Disadvantages of Interdisciplinary Studies

Characteristics of Interdisciplinary Studies

Exercise: Handout (In-class Activity)