

**UC 495
FALL 2017
Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone
Web Course**

Instructor: Dr. Julie Lents-Sutton
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Office: cyberspace
Office Hours: arranged

Required Texts:

Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies (ISBN: 9781452256603) By Allen F. Repko with Rick Szostak and Michelle Phillips Buchberger

Additional Required Readings are located on blackboard.

Aims of the Course:

This course offers an explanation of interdisciplinary scholarship and problem solving, with application based on students' areas of emphasis in the major. Specifically, students will:

- Demonstrate their understanding of the role of disciplines in the American University system
- Demonstrate their understanding of the role of scholarly research in the academic setting
- Demonstrate and apply analytical tools gained from their own disciplinary studies
- Demonstrate an awareness of how individual interdisciplinary perspectives can be combined and articulated to produce a broader understanding of a topic of current interest

Online Course Specific Information:

Required Skills:

- Ability to navigate Blackboard, including reading and posting messages and attachments to the discussion boards
- Ability to navigate the Web (use a browser) and handle multiple open windows
- Ability to browse Web pages
- Ability to open and navigate PDF files using Adobe Acrobat
- Knowledge of how to create, send, open, close, and save files and attachments with Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint
- Ability to cut and paste text from Microsoft Word documents to Email messages
- Basic word processing skills
- Ability to access online videos and recorded lectures

Help Desk Information

- <http://www.wku.edu/infotech/index.php?page=123>
- <http://www.wku.edu/online/bbtutorial.html#AdRequire>
- <http://www.wku.edu/helpdesk>
- (270) 745-7000

****Please note that while I am available to answer your course or content questions, I am not trained in technology science or information systems. I will not presume to be able to answer your computer and/or software questions but can help you find the appropriate individuals at Western Kentucky University who can best answer those types of questions.*

Classroom Citizenship:

On occasion, your peers or I will post an idea or example that you may not like or that may not be consistent with your life experiences and/or beliefs. Given the virtual nature of the classroom it is easy to send off a hasty and abrupt response. We need to strive to remember the human factor in this class, and take care to express our rebuttals in a fashion that attacks the idea, not the person. We also need to take care not to discount others' experiences, and to try to acknowledge that multiple perspectives exist. To this end, I will not tolerate communication that degrades or devalues anyone in the class. Take care to follow netiquette whenever possible and to be conscious of what you are saying and how you are saying it (word choice is crucial when the nonverbal elements of communication are absent in interactions). In the proper environment, we will all feel safe contributing our own thoughts and experiences and we will all be much more enriched in said environment.

ALL WORK IS DUE BY DUE DATE AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER DATE DUE NO EXCEPTIONS.**Semester Grades:****1. Syllabus Quiz 25 points**

This quiz is designed to familiarize you with the course materials and the syllabus. The quiz will also give those of you new to online classes a chance to practice the online format and tools necessary to take the exams. Treat this quiz as a learning assessment of your blackboard and internet skills. Then follow up with IT about any technology questions or problems that you encountered or the instructor regarding any course questions that you have. No make-up opportunity or time extension will be allowed for this quiz.

2. Discussion Board Assignments 130 points

You will have 8 required discussion board assignments for the course. The first 7 are worth 15 points each and the 8th one will be worth 25 points. For each discussion board you should post a response by the deadline that is well constructed (complete and thoughtful ideas, edited for grammar and spelling) and well supported (includes at least the minimum number of academic resources-you can list these at the end of your post). *For maximum credibility, resources should be academic or professional in nature and should be current; aim for references published in the last 5 years.* In addition to your own posts, you should also respond to your classmates' posts throughout the life of the discussion board.

- Discussion Board 1: What is an Interdisciplinary Studies major; what do interdisciplinary studies scholars focus on? (Chapters 1-3 in text, add 1 source)
- Discussion Board 2: What are the strengths (advantages) of interdisciplinary studies and weaknesses (disadvantages) of interdisciplinary? (3 resources)
- Discussion Board 3: Explain and discuss chapter 4 & 5 from text, The rise of the modern Disciplines & Interdisciplinary & Academic Disciplines?
- Discussion Board 4: What myths exist about interdisciplinary studies and how would you argue against these myths in a job interview or other professional setting? (3 resources)
- Discussion Board 5: Explain from Ch 6. The "DNA" of Interdisciplinary Studies?
- Discussion Board 6: What metaphor do you think best represents interdisciplinary studies?
- Discussion Board 7: Explain Thinking Critically about 1) Disciplinary Perspectives, 2) Disciplinary Insights, Integration & its results.
- Discussion Board 8: Choose an issue or problem that you are interested in. Explain how an interdisciplinary scholar would approach an understanding of the problem or forward

a potential solution for the problem. (10 resources)

Discussion boards will be graded on the basis of your post's construction, support (references), thoughtfulness of response to other's posts, and timeliness of responses.

3. Personal Essay 100 points

This essay will be your opportunity to demonstrate the role of your interdisciplinary major in the larger academic environment as well as your own potential career. (After the completion of this course, this essay can also serve as the introduction to your learning and career planning portfolio.) This essay should contain your explanation of what interdisciplinary studies is, the metaphor you would use to explain interdisciplinary studies to a nonacademic audience, and how your degree enriches you as well as makes you a more marketable candidate in your intended field or career. Expect to be graded on the overall interdisciplinary ideas and reflections that you present and support. Your final paper should be 7 pages with standard 1 inch margins, double spaced, using a readable font such as Times New Roman 12-point font. You should use a consistent citation method such as APA, Chicago, or MLA depending on your background and personal preference with a minimum of 5 resources.

4. Career Portfolio 25 points/section (submitted individually-see course calendar for exact due dates of each component)

Portfolios are particularly useful for interdisciplinary students because they allow you to summarize your experiences as an interdisciplinary major as well as present your background in a meaningful way to potential employers, graduate programs, or interested parties.

- **Resume (Choice of format: Rev-Chronological, Functional, Combination), Cover Letter** (Job or goal Specific (Professional application, with full address see details, **List of References** (3 Professional and 2 Personal references (no family or friends) Full names (with title if applicable), Addresses, *Phones, Emails and * how known.

- **Biographical Profile** – This informational sketch should include: Background or Brief History (Begin with 5-6 sentences about you) definition of your applicable Interdisciplinary Study (Your two-minute “elevator speech) Your specific Skills that relate to the desired job, relevant field or industry Career Goals or Objectives (A one paragraph personal mission statement) Also include: Service experience, Qualifications, Certifications.

- **Artifacts (determined by the areas of study or job)**

- a. Copy of Current Unofficial Transcripts (downloading a copy is required) CHOICE of at least three of the following...
- b. Images or Design Examples (professional samples of your work) c. Writing Samples
- d. PowerPoint Demonstrations
- e. Professional Applications (Business plans, or proposal, scientific reports)
- f. Teaching Application (Syllabi or lesson plans, evaluations)
- g. Personal Methodology or informational Interview Transcripts
- h. Examples of Community Service, Current Certifications or Professional Licenses

Grading Breakdown:

The final course grade will be based on how many points you have earned during the quarter. The scale is as follows:

A	297-330
B	264-298
C	240-263
D	198-239
F	0-197

Students must earn the specified number of points to achieve each grade level. There will be no exceptions, rounding, or credit for partial assignments.

Course Policies:

- All due dates and times for this class are in Central time zone (if you have any questions about the time zone please refer to the various websites available like www.time.gov/).
- This course does have due dates for each and every assignment; it is not an independent study and you should pay attention to the announcement page and course calendar for any and all due dates.
- The online classroom for us is primarily the Discussion Board (and other elements of communication we may use from time to time); this is where student participation and dialog take place. Discussion Boards are set up for each unit.
- Additionally, I have set up several boards that are more social in nature so that we can continue to have a human feel to our virtual classroom. For example, there will be a "Q&A Board" where you can post questions for the instructor or other class member to respond to.
- Unless I see the need to intervene once the virtual discussions begin, I will respond with comments to the class at the end of each unit's discussion. Please take a moment to read my comments as I generally highlight important points from the readings, throw in my own understanding of the material and occasionally point you to additional resources you so desire to do so.
- At any time, you are free to correspond with me to ask any questions, raise concerns, etc. that you might have via email. Meetings can be arranged through blackboard's virtual chat rooms.
- Assignments should be submitted via email. Cut and paste your paper(s) into the body of the email. This may seem tedious but it is the best way for me to comment on your papers and be able to return papers to you in a timely manner with an appropriate amount of feedback. Please note that I will generally put my comments in all CAPS...I am not yet trying to differentiate my comments from yours so that you can more easily locate them.
- I will return all emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends. I will attempt to return all assignments within one week of the due date (significant deviations will be conveyed to you via email or the announcement board on blackboard).
- I will on occasion contact students through the Blackboard email list. This list does use your WKU email address. I encourage you to either regularly check this account or have it forwarded to the address that you regularly use. Please be aware of the limitations on your mailbox; if it is full, your message will bounce back to me and I will not have a way of conveying relevant course information to you.
- Whenever possible (with the exception of urgent announcements or individual messages) I post course information on the announcements page of blackboard; I suggest you read these announcements on a daily basis.
- **Make up assignments (discussion boards, writing assignments, or exams) will not be given.**

- permitted.** In the case of an extreme documented emergency (not feeling well, vacations, weddings, computer issues, etc. do not count as emergencies) make-up opportunities may be granted, but assignments will be penalized at minimum one letter grade (or more at the instructor's discretion).
- Emergencies will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

University Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism (unintentional or intentional), misrepresenting of oneself or an organization, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, or omitting relevant or necessary information to gain a benefit, to injure, or to defame is prohibited. If the WKU Code of Student Conduct is violated the student may be expelled, suspended, placed on probation or receive a lesser sanction. For more information, such as definitions and examples of academic dishonesty visit http://www.wku.edu/handbook/2009/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59:academicoffenses&catid=36:academicoffenses&Itemid=60

Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

Special Accommodation

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for their coursework must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A-200. The phone number is (270) 745-2272. *Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.*

University Policy on Absences For more information see:

http://www.wku.edu/handbook/2009/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=141:classattendance&catid=38:universitypolicy&Itemid=55

Week 1:8/21-8/27

M 21Class opens; syllabus available for review & quiz available on blackboard; post introductions

T22

W23

TH24

F25

SA26

S 27*Syllabus quiz closes 11:59PM*

Week 2 Discussion Board 1: 8/28-9/3

M28 DB1 Opens 8AM

T29

W30
TH31
F1
SA2
S3 DB1 Closes 11:59PM

Week 3 Discussion Board 2: 9/4-9/10

M4 DB2 opens 8AM
T5
W6
TH7
F8
SA9
S10 DB2 closes 11:59PM

Week 4 Discussion Board 3: 9/11-9/17

M11 DB3 Opens at 8AM
T12
W13
TH14
F15
SA16
S17 DB3 Closes at 11:59P

Week 5 Discussion Board 4: 9/18-9/24

M18 DB4 Opens at 8AM
T19
W20
TH21
F22
SA23
S24 DB4 Closes at 11:59PM

Week 6 Discussion Board 5: 9/25-10/1

M25 DB5 Opens at 8AM
T26
W27
TH28
F29
SA30
S1 DB5 Closes: 11:59pm

WEEK 7 Discussion Board 6: 10/2-10/8

M2 DB6 Opens at 8am

T3

W4

TH5

F6

SA7

SU8 DB6 Closes: 11:59pm

Week 8 Discussion Board 7: 10/9-10/15

M9 DB7 Opens at 8Am

T10

W11

TH12

F13

SA14

S15 DB6 Closes; 11:59PM

Week 9 & 10 Discussion Board 8: 10/16-10/29

Discussion Board 8 requires a significant number of resources. You will have two weeks to complete assignment. From here on we move into the creation of your portfolio and we'll work on it in sections. Please review the description of this project in the syllabus. You'll see it is a significant piece of work, one that ought to fully prepare you for the job market. You may need to work ahead some to gather all the materials that might be included.

M16 Opens at 8AM

T17

W18

TH19

F20

Sa21

S22

M23

T24

W25

Th26

F27

Sa28

S29 DB8 closes at 11:59pm

Week 11 & 12 Personal Essay: 10/30-11/12

You will again have two weeks to complete your essay. Please remember to refer to syllabus for instructions and Blackboard announcement page.

M30

T31

W1

TH2

F3

SA4

S5

M6

T7

W8

TH9

F10

SA11

S12 PERSONAL ESSAY Section Due: 11:59PM

Week 13 Personal Portfolio/ Resume, Cover Letter, References: 11/13-11/19

M13 Opens at 8:00 am

T14

W15

T16

F17

SA18

S 19 Interdisciplinary Studies Program section due: 11:59PM

WEEK 14: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO ASSIGNMENT

Week 15: Personal Portfolio/ Biographical Profile 11/27-12/3

M27 Opens at 8:00 am

T28

W29

TH30

F1

SA2

S3 Personal Portfolio/ Biographical Due: 11:59PM

Week 16 Personal Portfolio/Career Section & Wrap up: 12/4-12/10

M4 Opens at 8:00 am

T5

W6

TH7

F8 Career Section Due: 11:59pm

DEC 10 Final grades should be posted on Blackboard for students viewing.

Make sure you review and any questions get them to me by DEC 11.

DEC 12- Final Grades due by noon.

