

IDST 395 | Investigative Methods in Interdisciplinary Studies

WEB 1/16-3/01



Dr. Will Perry

Office Location: GRH 2013

Phone: 270-745-4647

Email: will.perry@wku.edu

Preferred Contact: email

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview

This course is a reading-based and research-intensive course. This research is not for the sake of simply doing research but aims to foster better thinking for all facets of life through engaging with various types of facts, data, and evidence.

Course Description

Students in this course will investigate, discuss, and critique the issues, ideas, and theories relevant to interdisciplinary study. This is a research-intensive class that requires students to read, write, and orally participate in and out of class. Especially important will be demonstrating the questioning, answering, and thinking process through the integration of multiple disciplines.

While everyone will address the primary requirements and objective for this course, individual research projects will differ based on personal interests and area(s) of emphasis. In respect to each person's area(s) of emphasis or discipline(s) studied, there will be different research methods, essay topics, and projects for each student. There will also be various readings and in-class reflective writings throughout the semester. This base of study will introduce the student to the connective or integrative approaches required to work in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course introduces the different methods of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST) as an academic research method. Several different research assignments and projects will allow us to explore the importance of critical analysis, integration, and cultural relevancy when working in two or more fields or disciplines.

The student will

1. demonstrate your understanding of the importance of critical analysis, integration, and cultural relevancy when working in two or more fields or disciplines.
2. acquire new research techniques specific to her/his areas of interest to facilitate original insight in various interdisciplinary subjects of their own choosing
3. practice and challenge traditional approaches to knowledge in the pursuit of new perspectives
4. integrate various investigative measures in the pursuit of innovative results



Texts

Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies by Allen F. Repko (3rd ed.)

Blackboard will contain scans of readings and links to items required for the class.



Inclusivity

In this class, we respect and celebrate the myriad ways we are both alike and different, and we acknowledge that learning is engendered by being seen and heard. Our identities include numerous qualities, choices, beliefs, experiences, and descriptors that converge in one place to form our sense of self. In this class, all perspectives are valued and will be considered equally so long as they are communicated in a way that reflects how we value each other. We will honor these perspectives because they enrich the content of the course and our world. We will also regard these perspectives individually, recognizing that no one person speaks for or is inherently representative of one group. We will show we respect each other by affirming each other's names and associated pronunciation, pronouns, and identities; we will also respect any changes to names, pronouns, and identities made at any point in the term. If you have an experience in the class that contradicts this statement, or if there are aspects of the course that result in exclusion or a sense of alienation, please contact me privately without fear of reprisal. The Office of the Dean of Students is also an excellent source to contact if these issues arise in any course.

University Land

The history of our community and land gives us the opportunity to recognize, respect, and appreciate our place within that history. Western Kentucky University (WKU) honors and acknowledges the Indigenous peoples' land on which this University was built. All land in the state of Kentucky was once Indigenous territory, which is why it is our duty to acknowledge that WKU exists on Native land. This particular region of Kentucky was home to both the Shawnee (Shawandasse Tula) and Cherokee East (GWJᎦᎵᎩ Tsalaguwetiyi) tribes. We also honor and acknowledge the former residents of Jonesville. According to the Jonesville History Project, "Jonesville was a predominantly African American community in Bowling Green, Kentucky, that was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the expansion of the WKU campus. This incident echoed a pattern across the country where the power of eminent domain was utilized to seize property from minority communities for large public works projects under the guise of urban revitalization."

Instructor Communication Policy

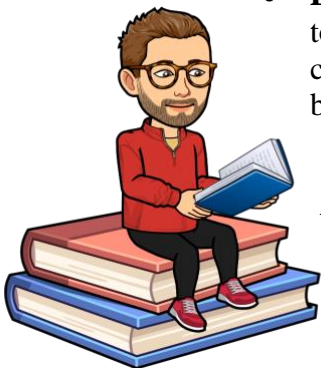
Preferred contact is email; email inquiries will be responded to within 24 hours, except on weekends. Please do not send multiple emails with the same question within the 24-hour response period, but if you do not receive a timely response, do contact me again in case the message was overlooked. Please contact me to make an appointment, if you would like to meet outside of class times.



Other required materials

- A computer—not a tablet, not a phone—with a reliable Internet connection.
- Microsoft Word or word processing software that saves files in .docx file format (All students have access to Office 365 through the Microsoft Student Advantage program (https://www.wku.edu/it/sms/microsoft_sa.php))
- Firefox or Chrome as the Internet browser you use.

COURSE POLICIES AND POINTS



- **Discussion boards (DBs).** Consistent participation and class contribution are vital to course success. Students should be prepared to discuss assigned readings and create questions in our DBs. A detailed rubric is attached to each discussion board.
- **Research Essays** (150 points each, **450 points total**). Each essay (about five pages each) contains various components which will add up to 150 points total for each of the three essays.
 - **ESSAY ONE: A Food Story.** 150 points total. For the first project, a food item must be chosen by the student for research. The selected food item must be verified by the instructor prior to starting the project as the object chosen will determine the focus of the research methods and critical

analysis undertaken. Examples of “thick description” will be provided in the course readings. **DUE: 11:59pm Sunday 9/24.**

- **ESSAY TWO: Scientific Literature Review.** 150 points total. Students may choose any research question drawn from any course material. The question and initial sources must be approved by the instructor.
- **ESSAY THREE: Disciplinary Insights Paper.** 150 points total. For the third essay, research methods from the individual’s major or BIS major concentration will determine the perimeters of the project. Students will select a minimum of two disciplinary perspectives through which insights on a selected phenomenon will be gathered and integrated in this essay. A minimum of four scholarly sources must be properly cited and present on a bibliography page. This will be a highly individualized assignment.
- **Final Research Reflection (50 points).** The final essay is a course reflection that requires students to consider the entire semester in total and communicate how their learning informs current and future thinking about the nature of knowledge, disciplines, and interdisciplinary study. This section will summarize and consolidate the various methods of study present in IDST and in the course.

Point Scale

90%-100%	A
80%-89.9%	B
70%-79.9%	C
60%-69.9%	D
Below 60%	F

Class Attendance and Late Work

Online attendance is monitored. It is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from the class if he/she does not wish to continue enrollment. Those who do not complete any work during Week 1 by the deadline will be dropped from the course.

Each student is expected to be present, prepared, participatory, and polite. Regular participation is essential for success. Students are expected to check the online learning platform daily. Any posted announcement will also be emailed. Attentiveness and active participation are expected for all students.

Assignments are due by midnight (11:59pm) on the due date unless otherwise stated. It is expected that ALL assignments will be submitted on their due dates. Late assignments will be accepted for up to one week (7 consecutive days) after the original due date and may receive reduced points. Some assignments (such as in-class reading notes and other in-class assignments) can NOT be accepted late for any credit. In addition, extra credit will not be given if students fail to complete the major assignments (tests, papers, and presentations).

Written Assignments

All written assignment submissions should be typed using [Microsoft Word Office 365](#) provided for free by WKU to every student. All formatting must follow [APA 7th edition style guide](#).



Extra Help

Dr. Perry will be available as need is indicated. Students are encouraged to discuss any questions or problems with him as they arise (i.e. don't wait until the last week to be concerned about unsatisfactory grades!). Tutoring is available at a variety of locations across campus and is a valuable resource. [Contact information can be found here.](#)

Additional Services

The WKU Center for Literacy is located in The Student Success Center in Gary Ransdell Hall. At the Center for Literacy, students can receive assistance in developing strategies to help reading/studying to learn and writing for evidence and argument. The Center for Literacy offers both individual and small group sessions throughout the semester. Find more information at the [WKU Center for Literacy's](#) website.

Course Adjustments

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course requirements, schedule, and syllabus. The syllabus and schedule for this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. No change will occur, however, unless proper and prior notice is given to students.

Regular and Substantive Interaction

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the [Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage](#).

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Weekly feedback on course assignments
- Weekly announcements

WKU POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Integrity: SLPS Departmental Policy

The School of Leadership & Professional Studies expects all undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students to demonstrate academic integrity and not participate in academic misconduct as defined by the University (<https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/process-for-academic-dishonesty.php>). The SLPS has developed two tiers for academic misconduct. Examples of

academic offenses include (but are not limited to) any act of plagiarism, cheating, or falsification or misuse of academic records.

Tier 1 Violations

Acts of plagiarism that involve not citing all sources and/or using papers previously written and submitted in other courses (aka Recycled Writing) is considered a Tier 1 violation. Students committing violations in Tier 1 will meet with the instructor to discuss the incident and work toward a resolution. Students may receive a zero on the submitted work with feedback stating the issue; students are responsible for checking grades and reading feedback. Instructors will follow the policy for Tier 2 violations for additional Tier 1 violations.

Tier 2 Violations

Tier 2 violations include but are not limited to using artificial intelligence programs, content generators or websites to complete an assignment in ways not allowed by the instructor, as described by the course syllabus, sharing passwords and login information with individuals not enrolled in the course, failing to cite any sources in submitted work when outside sources were obviously used, cheating on an assignment or test, employing a person, to complete an assignment, and/or committing a second Tier 1 violation. Students committing violations in Tier 2 will meet with the instructor to discuss the incident and review evidential materials. If the instructor determines a Tier 2 violation has occurred, the instructor should report the student to the Office of Student Conduct and request that the Office of the Registrar issue a failing grade for the course. If the academic misconduct is severe and flagrant, the student may be dismissed from the program. Students who wish to dispute the allegation, dismissal, or grade should [follow the Student Complaint Policy](https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-complaint.php) (<https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-complaint.php>).

Statement of Diversity

Western Kentucky University is committed to empowering its campus community to embrace diversity by building equitable and inclusive learning, working, and living environments. At the heart of our mission, we seek to provide holistic education and employment experiences that prepare students, faculty, and staff to become effective scholars, contributors, and leaders in our diverse and evolving communities. To that end, this classroom is an inclusive space where all participants are welcomed and treated with respect, dignity, and acceptance. Immoral, illegal, or unethical behavior and/or communication will not be tolerated. More information on Diversity at WKU can be found [here](#).

ADA Accommodations

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX, Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.