

**IDST 499 – Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone  
Spring 2020 Syllabus**

*\*Note: This document and other class related materials are available at <https://wku.blackboard.com/>.*

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**Course Description:** IDST 499 is a required capstone course for Interdisciplinary Studies majors. The goal of this course is to help students review and assess their educational experience at WKU and begin planning for their post-collegiate endeavors. The course is made up of (5) learning modules, each with associated deliverables.

**Course Objectives:** Students in IDST 499 will accomplish the following:

1. Perform a detailed reflection on their collegiate experience.
2. Perform a detailed strengths and weaknesses assessment to understand themselves and their values, goals, etc.
3. Perform a career exploration to explore geographies, industries, professions, and opportunities.
4. Develop a portfolio of career hunting tools and documents that highlight the students' educational experiences and strengths.
5. Prepare for the interviewing process with a particular focus on understanding what an IDST major knows and can do, their associated strengths, and how they can best represent themselves to prospective employers.

**Course Assignments:**

Below is a brief description of core course assignments. Please visit the Blackboard course site for modules related to each assignment.

1. *Educational Self-Assessment:* This assignment is an opportunity for you to explore and examine the most satisfying experiences of your college career and to discover those skills you will want to use as you move forward in life.
2. *Personal Assessment and Evaluation:* This assignment is an opportunity for you to explore yourself on a personal level.
3. *Career Exploration:* This assignment will allow you to examine your career plans from two different perspectives.
4. *Resume Development:* This assignment is an opportunity to develop an effective cover letter, as well as two types of resumes.
5. *Interview Preparation:* This assignment will help you to develop well-planned/rehearsed responses to some of the most common interview questions job applicants encounter.

**Course Assignments Point Distribution:**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
1. Educational Self-Assessment	20
2. Personal Assessment and Evaluation	20
3. Career Exploration	20
4. Resume Development	20
5. Interview Preparation	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

The following represents the grade equivalent for accumulated points: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 61-70, F = <60.

**The Modules and Assignment Schedule table on the next page shows the connection between course objectives and course modules and/or assignments, as well as due dates.**

**Students Disabilities Services:** 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 (SARC) 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](mailto: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. Note: Accommodations with prospective internship employers must be worked out directly with them.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student is expected to be his/her own effort. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism. Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course.

**Student Professionalism:** Students who participate in IDST 369 are representing WKU to the area business/public/non-profit communities in which they work. As such, all students are expected to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and ethical behavior while on the job. Please meet with your supervisor and establish clear and shared expectations related to your work schedule, job responsibilities, professional dress, and other expectations. These should be outlined in your reports for this class and must be strictly followed while at work. Students who are terminated for cause may be asked to drop this class or receive a failing grade.

***Important note:*** *The instructor reserves the right to alter and/or modify the syllabus, assignments, course activities, and schedule as necessary.*

MODULES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE			
Course Objectives	Course Modules	Assignments	Due Dates
1. Perform a detailed reflection on their collegiate experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessing Your Educational Experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational Self-Assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November 6, 2020</li> </ul>
2. Perform a detailed strengths and weaknesses assessment to understand themselves and their values, goals, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Assessment and Evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Assessment and Evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November 13, 2020</li> </ul>
3. Perform a career exploration to explore geographies, industries, professions, and opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career Exploration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career Exploration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November 20, 2020</li> </ul>
4. Develop a portfolio of career hunting tools and documents that highlight the students' educational experiences and strengths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resume Building and Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resume Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November 27, 2020</li> </ul>
5. Prepare for the interviewing process with a particular focus on understanding what an IDST major knows and can do, their associated strengths, and how they can best represent themselves to prospective employers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview Preparation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview Preparation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 4, 2020</li> </ul>