
**IDST 199-751: University Learning
Online via Blackboard
January 19 – April 30, 2021**

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Office Hours: For Spring 2021, all office hours will be virtual. Please email or call me to set up a Zoom or phone meeting to discuss any course-related issues.

Delivery Mode

Please note: This course will be delivered entirely online via Blackboard. There will be weekly lectures, multiple activities, discussion boards, asynchronous video chats, and more. Don't worry – all of the materials we'll be using to interact with each other will be freely available on either Blackboard or the internet.

Also, even though this is a web course, I am still available for office hours, discussions, or anything else via Zoom or phone at any time!

COVID-19 related disruptions of in-class meetings will result in online content via Blackboard.

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.

Point Scale

900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
Below 600	F

Course Overview

For students to successfully navigate the rigors of college-level work, they must be proficient in their ability to read, write, listen, and speak. This class provides students with the knowledge and skill sets necessary to handle the workload they will encounter at WKU. This course fosters new and positive academic and behavioral habits while rectifying the ineffective and inefficient practices often espoused by students new to the college landscape. This is the primary focus of the course with particular emphasis on these changes as they relate to reading.

Course Description

IDST 199 will refine students' skills in critical thinking, reading, study skills, and information literacy. Students will explore majors and careers, personal development, and campus resources. All students who have demonstrated a college readiness need in reading must pass IDST 199 to satisfy the college readiness requirement.

Academic Objectives

1. Read college-level print for sense and meaning.
2. Gather sound and relevant evidence to analyze an issue.
3. Analyze/synthesize evidence to articulate an argument.
4. Develop/refine speaking proficiency in college classrooms.
5. Learn to learn.

Affective Objectives

1. Develop/refine personal responsibility.
2. Develop/refine productive work ethic.
3. Recognize and adjust habits.

Texts:

One textbook is required – you must have this textbook to be successful in this course. The required textbook may be purchased at the campus bookstore, on-line through the listed publishing companies, or ordered from on-line booksellers – Amazon, Barnes and Noble, etc. Please also note – the book not shipping in time for you to receive them is NOT a valid excuse. Please make sure you have your textbook for class!

McRaney, D. (2011). *You are not so smart*. New York: Penguin Group.

Any edition (used, new, whatever) is fine. Get them as cheaply as you can!

There will be MANY other readings that will be provided to you via Blackboard or other online links.

Class Attendance and Late Work

Each student is expected to be present, prepared, participatory, and polite. 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 to receive any credit. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 10% the first day and then 15% per day (up to 6 additional days) after that. After one week, no credit will be awarded. 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 and follow APA 7th edition formatting style.

Plagiarism (Important)

To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. 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.

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Reading and Critical Thinking – 450 points (45% of final grade)

In choosing to attend WKU, you have committed to learning. This class will help you learn and create a path to success in all classes. Reading and Critical Thinking are two foundational components that will require regular reading assignments outside of class. In addition, participation is expected. Most classes will include activities or assignments where your participation and task accomplishment will earn points. These are interactive experiences and cannot be made up. The message is simple: points are accumulated by completed assignments and participation. Some points will come from out-of-class assignments that are used within the next class meeting, some will come from notes and reading assignments, and some will come from applying reading/learning strategies from in-class reading/experiences.

Evidence & Argument – 300 points (30% of final grade)

You will be responsible for gathering information; extracting and analyzing evidence; and producing college-level writing. Throughout the course of the semester, you will learn to navigate WKU's library systems, determine the reliability of academic sources, and participate in regular writing and class discussions. Each student is responsible for contributing thoughtful and reflective commentary every meeting.

Career & Academic Plans – 50 points (5% of final grade)

Students will research potential careers related to their desired field of study consistent with the person they want to become. WKU's iCAP system will be examined in depth, as well as the Colonnade coursework and other requirements necessary for graduation. Upon completion of IDST 199, students should have a preliminary roadmap that will lead to graduation at WKU.

Academic & Personal Success – 150 points (15% of final grade)

Students will learn and apply the appropriate behaviors for academic and personal success that will lead to student growth. Topics related to learning, personal growth, classroom discussion, campus resources, and personal success will be addressed.

Professionalism – 50 points (5% of final grade)

Each student is expected to be present, prepared, participatory, and polite. This primarily indicates that you are expected to behave in a way that ensures an appropriate learning environment for all students. Even though this class is online, this professionalism component will still come into play, as we will still interact with each other in a variety of formats!

Student Policies

The following three sections are taken from the 25th edition of WKU's Faculty Handbook:

Cheating

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

Disposition of Offenses

Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the University Disciplinary Committee through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary sanctions.

Other Types of Academic Dishonesty

Other types of academic offenses, such as the theft or sale of tests, should be reported to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

Additional Services

The WKU Center for Literacy is located in Gary A. Ransdell Hall 2066. 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. More information about the WKU Center for Literacy can be found on the website:
<http://www.wku.edu/literacycenter/>

ADA Accommodation Statement

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, 1074. 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 Misconduct/Assault Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

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 Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 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.