

## **IDST 495 Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone**

### **Fall 2023**

#### **INSTRUCTOR:**

Dr. Anne Heintzman, Pedagogical Assistant Professor

*Web-based (no meetings or tests requiring travel or f2f)*

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Office Telephone: 270-745-2966; Personal Cell Phone: 502-552-0765

Faculty Office Location: GRH 2017

Office Hours: TR 8:15-9:30; 11:00am-1:00pm; W 8:15am-11:45pm

#### **CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

BIS major (558), senior standing, or permission of the instructor. Examination of interdisciplinary scholarship and problem solving, with application based on students' areas of emphasis in their major.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This Capstone course is for all Interdisciplinary Studies majors, and also for others interested in building upon upon the relationships of meaning and interpretation within your areas of interest. This course helps to focus your direction of study and better prepare yourself for life after graduation in a professional manner. The intent of this course is to investigate, discuss and critique the issues, ideas and theories relevant to the interdisciplinary coursework. It is a personalized class and, while everyone will complete the basic course requirements, the specific concerns (research projects) will differ with each student. In respect to each person's areas of study, each student will be pursuing individualized research project along with a career portfolio that demonstrates his or her unique direction at WKU.

#### **Regular and Substantive Interaction**

IDST 495 is a fully online course that is the capstone of the BIS degree. The course is set up to offer f2f office hours as well as online appointments via Zoom. The course assignments are progressive and depend on instructor response to build toward the capstone research project that demonstrates each students' engagement with interdisciplinary studies. Therefore, timely and frequent instructor response to discussion boards, assignment submissions, and ideas are required. Each student is unique and often non-traditional, so one-on-one adaptation is sometimes key. Additionally, weekly (at least) announcements, updates, further explanation, and reminders of due dates and assignment span the length of the course.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course offers and exploration of interdisciplinary scholarship and problem solving, with application based on students' area of emphasis in the major. At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of "interdisciplinarity" and the research methods of one's emphasis
- Create an interdisciplinary research project that demonstrates integrative problem-solving skills
- Relate interdisciplinary thinking to complex issues involving people, ideas, cultural changes, as well as life outside of the university
- Organize a career portfolio including reflections on goals, learning, abilities, knowledge, and skills

#### **CLASS MATERIAL:**

➤ No Textbook Required – all readings are provided on Blackboard

#### **TECHNOLOGY/MEDIA:**

Participation in this class will require access to a computer, a reliable internet connection, competency in Microsoft Word and Blackboard, along with basic research skills using both internet sources and WKU Library

databases. Office 365 including Microsoft Word is free to all WKU through [this link](#). Please be sure to contact ITS for technical assistance, as needed.

***Assignments: Total: 1000 pts***

- Self-Introduction 50 pts
- Interdisciplinary Autobiography 100 pts
- TED Talk Reflection Paper 150 pts
- Capstone Research Project 300 pts
  - Research Proposal 50 pts
  - Source list 50 pts
  - Paper 200 pts
- Resume development 50 pts draft; 50 pts WKU Career Center Feedback; 100 pts final (200 pts)
- Career Portfolio 150 pts
- Professionalism (timeliness, communication with others, quality of work...) 50 pts

*Extra Credit: Work with any WKU tutor for assistance with any aspect of writing in this class, including source use and citation, and earn up to 50 extra credit points (25 for proof of meeting; 25 more for 150-word reflective summary of tutoring) Submit proof with assignment used for tutoring.*

**Detailed information about these assignments will be available as the course progresses on Blackboard.**

**GRADING SCALE**

**The final course grade will be based on how many points you have earned during the semester.**

<b>900-1000</b>	<b>= A</b>
<b>800-899</b>	<b>= B</b>
<b>700-799</b>	<b>= C</b>
<b>600-699</b>	<b>= D</b>
<b>0-599</b>	<b>= F</b>

**SLPS DEPARTMENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY 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 are 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 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, website, or artificial intelligence program 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>).

## **WKU POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

### **Plagiarism (Important)**

To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism –a form of cheating. Plagiarism is a serious offense that can result in a failing grade and more. *See WKU's student handbook academic dishonesty policy [here](#)*. 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, as is to use automated software of any kind to produce content attributed to the student. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism.

### **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 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, 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.

### **Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement**

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 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.



[Sexual Assault Resources](#)

### Things You Should Know



[Academic Integrity](#)



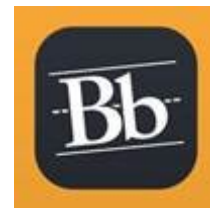
[Student Code of Conduct](#)



[Student Handbook](#)



[Student Resource Portal](#)



[Blackboard Student](#)

### If Issues Arise



[Student Complaint Procedures](#)



[Student Grievance Procedures](#)



[Student Ombuds](#)



[Student Legal Services](#)

### Be Prepared: Know Where To Go



[All Gender Restroom](#)



[Safe Space](#)



[WKU Emergency Preparedness](#)



[Active Shooter Preparedness](#)



[WKU Police](#)      [Counseling and  
Testing](#)      [Food Security](#)      [Center for Literacy](#)

All information on WKU policies in class syllabi can be found [here](#)