

# **INTS 4900 – Senior Interdisciplinary Research (3 cr.)**

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M 3-5, TR 12-2, W 11-1

Section 1 – TR 1:00-2:15pm NPlaza 113A  
Section 50 – W 5:15-7:45pm NPlaza 113A  
Section 51 – R 5:15-7:45pm UPlazB 104B  
Section 52 – T 5:15-7:45pm NPlaza 113B

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

INTS 4900 is required of all Integrated Studies majors in their final year, and is the first of a two-course sequence providing the culminating experience in the program. The course focuses on research methods and scholarly writing as students identify project topics and prepare project proposals for review and approval.

*Prerequisites: INTS 3100; senior standing*

**Required Textbook:** Repko, Allen F. *Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. SAGE Publications: Los Angeles, 2012.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES**

This course will develop a student's knowledge of and appreciation for the

- interdisciplinary nature of knowledge and learning
- importance and value of integrating knowledge and perspectives from multiple disciplines as a means to evaluating and understanding complex topics, problems, issues, phenomena, and events
- unique and distinct insights that various disciplines bring to interdisciplinary study
- nature and process of advanced academic research

Upon successful completion of the course, students will understand the

- standard research methods and practices of various academic disciplines
- purpose and elements of an annotated bibliography
- process and components of an advanced undergraduate research paper
- importance of ethics in the research process
- rudiments of conducting advanced undergraduate research

- core elements and differing disciplinary systems of research documentation
- nature and practice of integrative, interdisciplinary research
- process of designing an integrated research question
- importance of precise, concise, and cogent writing

## **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of the Integrated Studies program, students will:

- Understand the nature and process of interdisciplinary integration.
- Appreciate the unique advantages of integrative research and learning.
- Recognize how interdisciplinary-based research provides important knowledge and insight into complex problems and issues.
- Understand the nature of disciplinary research and scholarship.
- Identify the distinct theories, epistemologies, methods, concepts, and assumptions of two academic disciplines.
- Conduct scholarly research and writing in two academic disciplines.
- Demonstrate integrative understanding of a topic, problem, or phenomenon from two disciplinary perspectives.

## **CAMPUS POLICIES**

As a public institution of higher learning, we have all kinds of rules and regulations we (students, faculty and staff) must adhere to. Those policies and procedures are outlined in official documents that can be accessed here:

<http://dixie.edu/reg/syllabus/#finals>

In links accessed from that page, you will find information regarding important dates on campus for the semester, the final exam schedule, Writing Center and Disability Resource Center information, and policies and procedures regarding academic honesty and student/faculty conduct. Should there be any question about campus policies and procedures, I will assume you have read the information available online in full.

It cannot be emphasized enough that if you feel you are in need of assistance from the Disability Resource Center you should seek them out immediately upon starting the semester. The sooner I am aware of the need for accommodation, the easier it is to make those accommodations. The help that the DRC offers is free and completely confidential.

## **IMPORTANT DATES ON CAMPUS:**

Aug 20	Classwork Starts
Aug 23	Last Day to Waitlist
Aug 24	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Aug 27	Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class)
Sep 3	Labor Day

Sep 4	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Sep 10	Pell Grant Census
Sep 10	Last Day for Refund
Sep 10	Last Day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Sep 11	Courses dropped for non-payment
Sep 14	Last Day to Add/Audit
Oct 1	Graduation Application Deadline for Fall 2012
Oct 10	Mid-Term Grades Due
Oct 11-12	Semester Break
Oct 15	Last Day to Drop Individual Class
Oct 22	Spring and Summer 2013 class schedules available online
Nov 1	Graduation Application Deadline for Spring 2013
Nov 9	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Nov 12	Spring Registration open to Seniors (90+ credits)
Nov 13	Career Day (no classes before 4:00 p.m.)
Nov 13	Spring Registration open to Juniors (60+ credits)
Nov 14	Spring Registration open to Sophomores (30+ credits)
Nov 15	Spring Registration Open to All Students
Nov 21-23	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 7	Classwork Ends
Dec 10-14	Final Exams

## **COURSE GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS**

Students in 4900 are expected to pursue their research on a largely independent basis, with regularly scheduled appointments to assess and approve the research. Assignments are submitted on paper in the INTS offices, and late submissions **WILL** negatively affect grades. **ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL.** Students who get more than four weeks behind schedule, or fail to submit any one of the bigger assignments will not pass the class and will be required to repeat the semester. Incompletes will not be offered to students except when emergency circumstances prohibit the submission of the final two assignments. In those cases, incomplete contracts will only allow for a one-month extension, since course work in 4910 cannot be pursued until this work is completed.

Instructors in 4900 are not babysitters, mommies, or monitors. We are prepared to read submissions promptly and respond to them appropriately, but will not chase you down or remind you of due dates or scheduled meetings. Students who miss scheduled meetings will have to come in to the offices to reschedule.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

**Textbook Readings and Reviews** -- Students will read several chapters from the textbook and complete all review questions at the end of the chapter, then submit on paper either in the classroom or in the INTS offices at the scheduled times.

**Senior Thesis Topic Options Research** – Each student will conduct extensive research in the literature of both their emphasis areas and present 5 possible topics for their senior thesis. These topic options will be reviewed by department faculty and recommendations for the senior thesis topic will be discussed with the student. A mandatory meeting will follow the submission of this assignment.

**Bibliography** – After coming to a consensus, with faculty advisors, on the thesis topic, students will begin exhaustive research and produce a 30 source bibliography (APA or MLA format) that represents their initial research. These bibliographies will help to further refine the thesis topic. Meetings are optional after this assignment and scheduled by the student.

**Organizational Plan with Sources** – Students will produce a document that reflects the major topics and themes of the proposed thesis. Each section will be represented with a “narrative” of what the experts are saying about that sub-topic (learned through the research) and a list of the relevant sources that will be used in writing that section. This exercise helps students and their faculty advisors determine where further research is needed, and check for logical organization and potential development issues. Meetings will follow the submission of this assignment.

**Annotations** – Students will now choose the 10 most relevant and powerful sources from their research and write thorough annotations that demonstrate careful reading and analysis of these 10 sources. Upon completion of this assignment, students should feel confident discussing and drawing upon these 10 strong sources as the starting point for writing the senior thesis.

**Project Description** – Submitted at the scheduled Final Exam time, this brief but complete analysis of the research and proposed paper will represent the culminating assignment for the semester. Students should be able to articulate the main ideas of the paper and what further research might still be necessary.

## **GRADING**

Grades for course assignments are weighted as follows:

Textbook Assignments	5 %
Topic Options Research	30 %
30 source Bibliography	20 %
Organizational Plan	20 %
Annotations	20 %
Project Description	5 %

## GRADE SCALE AND CORRESPONDING GPA

A	94.0 and above	4	C	74.0 – 76.9	2
A-	90.0 – 93.9	3.7	C-	70.0 – 73.9	1.7
B+	87.0 – 89.9	3.3	D+	67.0 – 69.9	1.3
B	84.0 – 86.9	3	D	64.0 – 66.9	1
B-	80.0 – 83.9	2.7	D-	60.0 – 63.9	.7
C+	77.0 – 79.9	2.3	F	59.9 and below	0

## COURSE SCHEDULE – Fall Semester 2012

The course will be scheduled by weeks – a new week always starts on Monday. 4900 students are welcome to attend any scheduled section of 4900 during the first two weeks, then all work and meetings will be managed and scheduled individually. Assignments will be submitted in the classroom or in the drop box in the INTS offices. Assignment guidelines will be available on CANVAS at the appropriate times.

**ASSIGNMENTS ARE ALWAYS DUE ON MONDAYS AND THE OFFICES CLOSE AT 5:00PM.** The only exception will be the FINAL EXAM, which must be submitted by noon on Thursday, December 13.

WEEK	ACTIVITY
8/20	Meet in any scheduled class – assign Chap 8
8/27	Meet in any scheduled class – assign 5 Topics Submit Chap 8 Review in class
9/3	Independent Work
9/10	Independent Work
9/17	Submit 5 Topics in offices on Mon 9/17 – sign up for meetings Pick up Chapter 6 Review Assignment Scheduled Individual Meetings Wed-Thu
9/24	Scheduled Individual Meetings Mon-Thu
10/1	Submit Chapter 6 Review Assignment in offices on Mon 10/1 Individual Research
10/8	Individual Research
10/15	Individual Research

- 10/22 Submit Bibliography Assignment in offices on Mon, Oct 22  
Read and Review Chapter 9
- 10/29 Submit Chapter 9 Review in offices on Mon, Oct 29  
Working on Organizational Plan
- 11/5 Submit Organizational Plan on Mon, Nov 5 – sign up for meetings  
Scheduled Individual Meetings Tue-Thu
- 11/12 Scheduled Individual Meetings Mon-Thu  
11/19 Scheduled Individual Meetings Mon – Thu
- 11/26 Independent Work
- 12/3 Submit Annotated Bibliography in offices on Mon, Dec 3  
Pick up Final Exam
- 12/10 Submit FINAL EXAM in offices before Noon on Thu, Dec 13