

INTS 4900-02 – Senior Interdisciplinary Research (3 cr.)

CRN # 45631

MW 1-215pm

Whitehead 304

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Blackboard Vista email only

Office hours: MW 11-1, T 12-1, and by appointment

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 formal proposals for review and approval.

Prerequisites: INTS 3100; senior standing

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

Aug 22	Classes Begin
Aug 24	Last day to add without signature and drop classes online
Aug 29	DROP/AUDIT fee begins (\$10 per class)
Sep 5	Labor Day Holiday (no classes)
Sep 6	\$50 Late registration/payment fee
Sep 12	Pell Grant Census
Sep 12	Last day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Sep 13	Courses dropped for non-payment

Sep 16	Last day to ADD classes
Sep 30	Fall GRADUATION application deadline
Oct 12	Mid-term grades due
Oct 13-14	Fall Break (no classes)
Oct 17	Last day to Drop/Audit classes
Nov 11	Last day for complete withdrawal from all classes
Nov 14	Spring 2012 Registration begins
Nov 15	Career Day (no classes before 4:00pm)
Nov 23-25	Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
Dec 9	Classes End
Dec 12-16	Final Exams

ASSIGNMENTS

Problem-Based Interdisciplinary Group Research – As an initial project to orient students to interdisciplinary integration and research, students will work in pairs to examine a topic, problem, concept, phenomenon, or event from two different disciplinary perspectives, with the goal of identifying the integrative nature of the problem. Each group will produce a research log detailing their findings and the development of a research question. Each pair will also produce a monologue in which they will define and explain the integrative problem.

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.

Annotated Bibliography – After extensive research in an approved topic, each student will produce a bibliography of at least 30 relevant sources. A specified number of these sources will include annotations.

Senior Thesis Proposal – Students will complete a senior thesis proposal that will explain the rationale for the project, detail the research/study to be conducted, and justify the integrative nature of the work.

GRADING

Grades for course assignments are weighted as follows:

Interdisciplinary Group Research Project	20 %
Topic Options Research	40 %
Bibliography	30 %
Project Proposal	10 %

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

SCHEDULE

VBL = *Val Browning Library*

NP = North Plaza INTS offices

Mon	8/22	Course Introduction / Problem-Based Interdisciplinary Research assignment	
Wed	8/24	Research Fundamentals	
Mon	8/29	Research	(VBL)
Wed	8/31	Research	(VBL)
Mon	9/5	Research	(VBL)
Wed	9/7	Research	(VBL)
Mon	9/12	Research	(VBL)
Wed	9/14	Research	(VBL)
Mon	9/19	Submit Problem-Based Research Assignment	
Wed	9/21	Topic Options research	(VBL)
Mon	9/26	Topic Options research	(VBL)
Wed	9/28	Topic Options research	(VBL)
Mon	10/3	Topic Options research	(VBL)
Wed	10/5	Topic Options research	(VBL)
Mon	10/10	Topic Options research	(VBL)
Wed	10/12	FALL BREAK	
Mon	10/17	Submit Topics Options Research	
Wed	10/19	Topic Options meetings	(NP)
Mon	10/24	Topic Options meetings	(NP)
Wed	10/26	Topic Options meetings	(NP)

Mon	10/31	Topic Options meetings	(NP)
Wed	11/2	Topic Options meetings	(NP)
Mon	11/7	Senior Thesis Research	(VBL)
Wed	11/9	Senior Thesis Research	(VBL)
Mon	11/14	Senior Thesis Research	(VBL)
Wed	11/16	Senior Thesis Research	(VBL)
Mon	11/21	Senior Thesis Research	(VBL)
Wed	11/23	THANKSGIVING	
Mon	11/28	Senior Thesis Research	(VBL)
Wed	11/30	Senior Thesis Research	(VBL)
Mon	12/5	Senior Thesis Research	(VBL)
Wed	12/7	Submit Annotated Bibliography	
Wed	12/14	FINAL EXAM -- 12:00-2:00pm Submit Senior Thesis Proposal	