

INTS 4910 – Senior Interdisciplinary Project (3 cr.)

Spring 2012

Sections 50 (CRN 24506), 51 (CRN 24505), 52 (CRN 24936)

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Course Description

Required of all Integrated Studies majors in their final year. The second in a 2 course sequence providing the culminating experience in the program. Students will select a topic, theme, issue, or problem and relate their two areas of concentration through careful analysis and creative synthesis, producing a major project that exhibits skill in interdisciplinary understanding. Prerequisite: INTS 4900.

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:

Jan 9	Classwork Starts
Jan 11	Last Day to Add Without Signature
Jan 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 17	Drop/Audit Fee Begins (\$10 per class)
Jan 24	\$50 Late Registration/Payment Fee
Jan 30	Graduation Application Deadline
Jan 31	Pell Grant Census
Jan 31	Last Day for Refund
Jan 31	Last Day to drop without receiving a "W" grade
Feb 1	Courses dropped for non-payment
Feb 3	Last Day to ADD Classes
Feb 20	President's Day

Feb 27	Mid-Term Grades Due
Mar 2	Last Day to DROP/AUDIT Classes
Mar 12-16	Spring Break
Mar 19	Summer Registration open to Seniors (90+ earned credits)
Mar 20	Summer Registration open to Juniors (60+ earned credits)
Mar 21	Summer Registration open to Sophomores (30+ earned credits)
Mar 22	Summer Registration open to All Students
Apr 6	Last Day for Complete Withdrawal
Apr 16	Fall Registration open to Seniors (90+ earned credits)
Apr 17	Fall Registration open to Juniors (60+ earned credits)
Apr 18	Fall Registration open to Sophomores (30+ earned credits)
Apr 19	Fall Registration open to All Students
Apr 26	Classwork Ends
Apr 27	Final Exams
Apr 30, May 1-3	Final Exams
May 4	Commencement

ASSIGNMENTS

Project Topic & Organizational Outline

Each student will provide an initial outline of their paper that will clarify the topic, indicate the major sections of discussion, list the principal research sources for each section, and explain the overall objective of the paper, including a justification of the interdisciplinary nature of the work.

Meetings w/ Project Advisor(s)

Each student will meet with department project advisors both before initiating work on the senior thesis and after producing a complete rough draft. Other meetings will be scheduled at the discretion of the project advisors, and optional meeting times will be available near the end of the term.

Thesis Submissions

Weekly submission of thesis drafts will be required of each student. These submissions must be no fewer than 5 pages in length and submit in hard copy to the Integrated Studies office. Submissions are due no later than Thursday at noon on the week assigned. They must be typed, double-spaced and carefully proofread to be considered for evaluation. Submissions will be returned to students with feedback pertaining primarily to content, organization and integration.

Senior Thesis

The final copy of the senior thesis is due by Thursday, April 26, the last day of classes. This submission must be delivered in hard copy to the project advisors no later than 5pm that day. Appropriate paper format and other related matters will be specified in a handout to each student.

SCHEDULE

- 1) **Project Topic & Organizational Outline** *due by Thursday, 1/19 noon
- 2) **Meeting w/ project advisor** *scheduled during 3rd / 4th weeks – 1/23-2/3
- 3) **Submission Timeline**
 - i. 5 pages *due by Thursday, 2/9 noon
 - ii. 5 pages (total 10pp) *due by Thursday, 2/16 noon
 - iii. 5 pages (total 15 pp) *due by Thursday, 2/23 noon
 - iv. 5 pages (total 20 pp) *due by Thursday, 3/1 noon
 - v. complete rough draft (total 20-25 pp) * due by Thursday, 3/8 noon
- 4) **Meeting w/ project advisor** **scheduled during 11th / 12th weeks – 3/19-3/30
- 5) **Optional writing workshops** **times TBD
- 6) **Optional meetings w/ advisor** **during 13th – 16th weeks
- 7) **Senior Thesis** *due by Thursday, 4/26