

Course Description

BIS 300: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies

CRN

Fall 45313/Spring 16065

Credits

3 credit hours

Prerequisites

None

Description

This course is an introduction to the concepts and methods of interdisciplinary study through critical examination of anticipated workplace and civic trends in the global environment. Using a multicultural focus, we will look at ethics and decision-making in contemporary society. Emphasis is placed on development of critical and analytical thinking skills, as well as written and oral communication. Key ethical questions will be addressed from a variety of perspectives both past and present as a basis for informed decision-making.

Department

Interdisciplinary Studies

College or School

College of Arts and Sciences

University Mission

As a regional Carnegie Master's I university located in Cleveland, Mississippi, Delta State University serves as an educational and cultural center for the Mississippi Delta, emphasizing service to the Northern Delta counties and its campus centers in Clarksdale and Greenville.

The University offers undergraduate, graduate and continuing education programs of study leading to baccalaureate and master's degrees in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, and the School of Nursing, as well as a Doctorate in Education. Emphasis is placed on excellence in instruction, followed by service and research, in the creation of a community of scholars. With special attention to small classes, a friendly environment, and a broad liberal arts foundation, the University encourages significant student-faculty interactions. Delta State provides programs and services that promote intellectual, cultural, ethical, physical, and social development. Students from different cultural, socioeconomic, and ethnic backgrounds will develop the ability to respect and evaluate the thoughts of others; to develop, assess, and express their own thoughts effectively; and to use the techniques of research and performance associated with their disciplines.

Course Objectives

Goals

Students taking this course will:

- Students will identify current ethical challenges in science, education, business, government, and in their various communities;
- Students will study ethical concerns (and interactive effects) at the individual, group, community, nation, society, and global levels;
- Students will develop an awareness of personal values, the diversity of values held by others, and the process of moral/ethical inquiry and decision-making;
- Students will develop critical thinking skills by bringing multiple perspectives to bear on particular ethical dilemmas and issues and by using reflection, logic, evidence, and well-chosen examples to support positions or arguments
- Students will enhance their speaking and writing skills in exploring ethical issues, making decisions, and presenting conclusions to others. Students will also demonstrate effective oral communication skills in a variety of personal and professional situations, both formal and informal, using the appropriate technology;
- Students will gain an appreciation of the diverse perspectives of the disciplines represented in classroom enrollment and /or reading assignments, and of the ways in which they complement and/or contradict one another;
- Students will develop the ability to synthesize the perspectives of the various disciplines represented;
- Students will gain an appreciation of culturally-diverse perspectives by comparing and contrasting beliefs and practices.

Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- articulate what interdisciplinary studies are and are not
- articulate their traits and skills as an interdisciplinarian
- integrate various disciplines
- critique journal articles that take an interdisciplinary approach to a problem

Grading System

I use the following grading system:

Letter		Quality Points		Description
A	= 90-100	4	=	Excellent
B	= 80-89	3	=	Good
C	= 70-79	2	=	Satisfactory
D	= 60-69	1	=	Poor
F	= below 60	0	=	Failure

The letter "I" (incomplete) may be awarded when, for reasons beyond a student's control, the course requirements cannot be completed during the enrollment period. "I" grades carry no quality points; the hours are included in calculation of the quality point average. An "I" must be removed by the next full semester. This twelve month

requirement does not apply to theses, dissertations, and other research or practicum courses, which can award the grade of IP (in progress).

Grading Methodology and Opportunities

Please familiarize yourself with the grading methodologies and criteria listed below. The course assignments will receive the following weights:

Assignment	Value
Class Participation/Discussions (in class and online)	25 percent
Vision Board	5 percent
Inventory	5 percent
Short Papers	25 percent
Quizzes	10 percent
Intellectual Autobiography	25 percent
Resume	5 percent

Assignment Descriptions

Participation/Discussions

Weekly discussions are designed to engage your thinking about the readings as well as your interaction with other students in the course. Discussion comments should be courteous, thoughtful, and carefully formulated.

A student who does not meet these requirements will not receive full participation credit.

Your discussions will be measured against the following criteria:

Criteria	Excellent 2	Satisfactory 1	Poor 0
In-class/online discussion contributions	Makes substantive comments that reflect critical thinking and engagement with material. Comments intelligently on other students' comments.	Makes superficial comments. Comments superficially on other students' comments.	Does not make comments
Responsiveness to discussion and demonstration of knowledge and understanding gained from assigned reading	Very clear that readings were understood and incorporated well into responses	Vaguely apparent that readings were understood and incorporated into discussion	Not evident that readings were understood and/or not incorporated into discussion

Vision Board

Your vision board will be measured against the following criteria:

Maximum Points	Excellent 2	Good 1	Poor 0
Goal	Goal is written in the center of the poster in a complete sentence Goal is measurable and realistic	Goal is written on poster Goal is somewhat vague	Goal on poster is vague or unrealistic or absent
Pictures	Minimum of five pictures	Minimum of three pictures	Less than three pictures
Quotation	Appropriate quote Attributed to source Written correctly	Quote present Attributed to source	Quote absent
Neatness	Pictures are cut out very neatly Lettering is very neat	Pictures are cut out with some ragged edges Lettering is legible	Pictures are ragged Lettering is hard to read
Creativity/ Decoration	Pictures/lettering are decoratively arranged Extra decoration present	All required elements are present No added decoration	N/A

Short Papers Based on Chapter Questions

The Short Papers are designed to evaluate your understanding of the reading, express a deeper knowledge of the reading and practice writing.

Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

Short Paper	Excellent 5	Good 4	Satisfactory 3	Poor 1
Structure and organization - clear, coherent (title, thesis, body, conclusion)				
Grammar/editing/proof reading				
Student addresses the topic				
Student incorporates support from readings and/or class when addressing topic				
Student uses MLA or APA citation methods				

Intellectual Autobiography

The Intellectual Autobiography is designed for you to reflect on your path as a scholar and interdisciplinarian.

Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

Criteria	Excellent 5	Good 4	Satisfactory 3	Poor 1
Audience is able to determine the purpose of the work via introduction				
All major elements that have a bearing on the author's worldview or affinity with interdisciplinary studies are present. These include but are not limited to: place and date of birth; upbringing and early education; academic interests; influential ideas; hobbies, pursuits; worldview (politics, social concerns, etc.); interest in particular "big idea"; traits and skills of an interdisciplinarian already identified				
Complies with APA or MLA guidelines; acknowledges sources and cites them properly				
Demonstrates a consistent command of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, word usage, and sentence structure				

Assessments

Quizzes will be based on the readings, syllabus and advising process.

Inventory

You will be measured against the following criteria:

Criteria	Yes 5	No 0
Attended initial meeting with staff of Career Services to discuss interests, career plans, etc.		
Attended additional meeting with staff of Career Services if staff asked for an additional meeting		

Resume

Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

Criteria	Excellent 5	Good 3	Poor 1
Overall Appearance/Style	Fills page, not crowded. Consistent in font style and layout. Information is clear. Centered on page and good choice of font and type size. Structure has clear purpose.	Consistent in style but has some uneven white space or does not fill up a page. Important information may not stand out clearly to reader.	Appearance may lack appropriate use of bold/italics, font, bullet points or margins. Format is not appealing. Information is not laid out in a clear format. Does not draw attention and has lack of structure.
Category Selection	Choice of subject headers is excellent. Most important items are listed on the top half. Categories selected include enough information within each to substantiate the need for the heading.	Category selection is well defined and order of information on page is good.	Categories may need to be structured differently to be more effective. Lacking appropriate categories or category selection is unclear. Resume does not include subject header.
Experience	Appropriate experience listed with organization name, title, dates, and location. Sentence fragments are concise, direct, and accomplishment oriented; strong verbs and appropriate verb tense is used. Results are quantified. Listed in correct chronological order	Appropriate experience listed. Sentence fragments are used, but descriptions may not be result oriented or verbs may be weak.	Too much or too little experience is included. Verbs may be weak and verb tense may be incorrect. Descriptions may not be in the form of bullets. Important information may be missing. Descriptions are not detailed and offer no illustration of what was done. No type of experience (work, volunteer, leadership or other) is listed.
Education	Degree and major are listed with graduation	Degree is listed with necessary	Additional information may need to be

	month and year, name and location of school. If GPA is listed it is over a 3.0. Honors and Scholarships are included here or in their own section if more appropriate. Important information is highlighted.	information but section could be expanded. Most important information does not stand out	included to increase length of resume or too much information may be included. Section lacks information and format. Section is not included or crucial information is missing
Typos/Spelling Errors	No or extremely minor errors (Capitalization, spelling, grammar).	Few errors, shows but consistent pattern. Information may be abbreviated when it should be spelled out.	Shows a persistent pattern of error or contains a number of varied mechanical errors. Mechanical errors are so widespread that they are distracting. Difficult to read because of mechanical errors.
Additional Sections: Ex. Skills/Activities	Included additional section with relevant, well organized, and easy to understand information. If appropriate, leadership roles and related activities are indicated.	Included additional section with relevant information, and minimal flaws; skills or activities may not be properly defined.	Additional section is missing key information. Included additional section, but information is weak or irrelevant. Additional sections are missing.

Instructor Policies

No make-up quizzes or extra-credit work if you miss any assignments or your grade is low.

Missed, incomplete, late assignments or those that do not follow the assignment instructions automatically receive a zero.

Canvas Course Management System

It is the student's responsibility to configure his/her computer to fully take advantage of Canvas. For instructions follow the guidelines on the opening page of Canvas. If the student is experiencing difficulties with the course management system, he/she must contact Canvas to resolve the issues. Issues with Canvas are not an excuse to hand in

assignments late. The Canvas Helpdesk number is x4444 (on-campus), 662.846.4444 (local) and 1.866.264.1465 (toll free) and the email address is helpdesk@deltastate.edu.

Academic Policies

Students should familiarize themselves with [university policies](#), and particularly those that govern academics and student affairs at Delta State. The policies that are likely to affect students in this course are listed below.

Attendance and Participation

Delta State University maintains standards for class attendance and absence. Students are responsible for adhering to the policy. Students must attend a minimum of 75 percent of all scheduled classes and activities.

Students taking fully online courses or online courses with minimized face-to-face meeting times or residencies will not attend a physical class regularly or at all. However, online students are required to check the course site regularly, participating in the daily work of the course. At a minimum, students should log in twice a week. Students demonstrating little or no activity within the first three weeks of the course may be dropped from the course as a No Show. Additionally, students who do not actively participate in class through discussions/forums and assignments will be "cut out" after three weeks of non-consecutive inactivity or missed activity

Absences and Excuses

Each student is directly responsible to the individual instructor for absences and for make-up work missed. For additional information on absences generally excused by the university, consult the official [policy statement](#) in the university policy manual.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated. If it is established that a violation has occurred, instructors may determine the penalty, and should report the offense to the division/department chair, the student's advisor, the dean, and the Office of Academic Affairs. The usual minimum penalty involves a grade of zero (0) on the test, examination, or paper in question. A second offense by any student will be reviewed for more stringent action and will usually result in suspension. Any additional offenses will usually result in expulsion from the university.

Graduate students who cheat or plagiarize will receive a grade of zero (0) for the assignment and may receive a grade of "F" in the course. Instructors report the offense to the division/department chair, the student's advisor and/or program coordinator, the Graduate Office and the Office of Academic Affairs. A second offense by any student will result in dismissal from the university. Plagiarism in a Delta State University graduate thesis/dissertation will result in denial or removal of the degree, and the person will be denied admission to or be expelled from subsequent degree programs at Delta State University.

Abuse of Computers and Network Systems

All members of the Delta State University community must use electronic communications in a responsible manner. The university may restrict the use of its

computers and network systems for electronic communications, in response to complaints presenting evidence of violations of [other university policies or codes](#), or state or federal laws. Specifically, the university reserves the right to limit access to its networks through university-owned or other computers, and to remove or limit access to material posted on university-owned computers. The university reserves the right to limit access to its networks through university-owned or other computers, and to remove or limit access to material posted on university-owned computers.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Delta State University is committed to a policy of equal employment and educational opportunity. Delta State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status. This policy extends to all programs and activities supported by the University. Contact the ADA Officer in the Counseling Center at the [O.W. Reily Student Health Center](#) for more information or accommodation.

College Identification

All full-time and part-time students enrolled in six or more hours are given a combination identification-activity card, also known as the [Okra Kard](#), bearing their photograph and student identification number. These cards are important because they will identify a student when borrowing books from the library, making purchases in the bookstore, purchasing a parking decal, cashing authorized checks, gaining admittance to food services, meal plan tracking, a pre-paid debit account and all student activities and athletic events. The identification card has a monetary value because it is a prepaid ticket to all athletic events (other than GSC and NCAA tournaments where Delta State is a host site) and many social events.

Students on campus must carry their identification card at all times and produce them when requested by members of the University staff. These cards are not transferable. Students are liable for disciplinary action for misuse of identification-activity cards, for altering them in any way, for loaning them to another person, or for failing to have the card on his or her person when it is requested by a member of the university staff.

Required Texts

Repko, Allen F. (2012). *Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory, 2nd ed.* Los Angeles: Sage.

A copy of the text is available at the Reserve Desk of the Roberts-LaForge Library so that students can complete assignments until their copy arrives or is purchased.

Recommended Texts

A good dictionary and thesaurus.

Note: Students are encouraged to make textbook purchases at the [DSU Bookstore](#) in the H.L. Nowell Union Building on campus or online.

Additional Materials

Computing Requirements

To access the online component of this course you should have--or have regular access to--an Internet-connected, multimedia-class computer that uses an up-to date web browser with [the usual plug-ins and players](#).