

## **BIS 400 Syllabus**

### **Course Description**

BIS 400: Applied Interdisciplinary Studies

### **CRN**

Fall 45099/Spring 16376

### **Credits**

3 credit hours

### **Prerequisites**

BIS 300, BIS 310

### **Description**

Applications of interdisciplinary thought and research. Students will use concepts and methods learned in previous BIS courses to explore issues in their chosen areas of emphasis. May involve individual or group projects combining concentrations. Over the course of the semester, students will develop a proposal for their Capstone Project (BIS 410).

### **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:

- apply various research methods to issues within or contingent to their areas of concentration
- investigate and evaluate products, theses, research projects in order to understand variety of possibilities for Capstone Project
- demonstrate critical and analytical skills in developing a viable proposal for the Capstone Project, identifying in the process useful sources, resources, and applicable research in the field

## Outcomes

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

- articulate and present a workable proposal for their Capstone Project

## DSU Grading System

Delta State University makes use of 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 end of the next full semester. This 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

The course assignments will receive the following weights:

Assignment	Value
Initial Proposal/Abstract	25 percent
5 page paper	25 percent
Draft of 10 page paper	25 percent
Final Version of 10 page paper	25 percent

## Assignment Descriptions

### Initial Proposal

The Initial Proposal is designed for you to articulate the beginnings of your project. Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

<b>Initial Proposal Rubric</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Maximum points</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Problem or research question defined	Problem or research question thoroughly defined	Problem or research question adequately defined	Problem or research question vaguely defined	No problem or research question defined
Interdisciplinary approach justified	Interdisciplinary approach thoroughly justified	Interdisciplinary approach adequately justified	Interdisciplinary approach vaguely justified	Interdisciplinary approach not justified
Relevant disciplines identified	All relevant disciplines identified	Most relevant disciplines identified	Student's disciplines identified	Relevant disciplines not identified
Problem or research questions analyzed and each insight or theory evaluated in each discipline.	Problem or research questions analyzed and each insight or theory evaluated in each discipline clearly.	Problem or research questions analyzed and each insight or theory evaluated in each discipline adequately.	Problem or research questions analyzed and each insight or theory evaluated in each discipline vaguely.	Problem or research questions not analyzed and each insight or theory is not evaluated in each discipline.
Resources cited	APA/MLA citation style used correctly and consistently	APA/MLA citation style used mostly correctly and consistently	APA/MLA citation style used somewhat correctly and consistently	APA/MLA citation style not used correctly and consistently

### 5 pp paper

The 5 pp paper is designed to allow you to further articulate ideas leading to your Capstone Project.

Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

<b>5 pp Paper Rubric</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Maximum points</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

Problem or research question defined	Problem or research question thoroughly defined	Problem or research question adequately defined	Problem or research question vaguely defined	No problem or research question defined
Interdisciplinary approach justified	Interdisciplinary approach thoroughly justified	Interdisciplinary approach adequately justified	Interdisciplinary approach vaguely justified	Interdisciplinary approach not justified
Relevant disciplines identified	All relevant disciplines identified	Most relevant disciplines identified	Student's disciplines identified	Relevant disciplines not identified
Problem or research questions analyzed and each insight or theory evaluated	Problem or research questions thoroughly analyzed and each insight or theory evaluated	Problem or research questions adequately analyzed and each insight or theory somewhat evaluated	Problem or research questions superficially analyzed and each insight or theory	Problem or research questions not analyzed and each insight or theory not evaluated
Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources identified	Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources thoroughly identified	Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources adequately identified	Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources superficially identified	No conflicts between insights or theories and their sources identified
Common ground between concepts and theories created	Common ground between concepts and theories thoroughly created	Common ground between concepts and theories adequately created	Common ground between concepts and theories superficially created	No common ground between concepts and theories created
A more comprehensive understanding constructed	A more thorough comprehensive understanding constructed	A more comprehensive understanding adequately constructed	A more comprehensive understanding superficially constructed	No comprehensive understanding constructed
Reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Thoroughly reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Adequately reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Superficially reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Did not reflect on, test, and communicate the understanding
Resources cited	APA/MLA	APA/MLA	APA/MLA	APA/MLA

	citation style used correctly and consistently	citation style used adequately correctly and consistently	citation style used mostly correctly and consistently	citation style not used correctly and consistently
Editing – grammar, mechanics, transitions	There are no major grammatical errors or typos	There are a few major grammatical errors or typos	There are many major grammatical errors or typos	The large number of major grammatical errors and/or typos make it difficult to follow the paper’s argument
Structure and organization – (title, thesis, body, conclusion)	Clear, coherent	Adequately clear, and coherent	Paper poorly constructed	Unclear, incoherent

**Draft of 10 pp proposal**

The Draft of the 10 pp paper is designed to allow you to craft your proposal. Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

<b>10 pp Draft Paper Rubric</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Maximum points</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Problem or research question defined	Problem or research question thoroughly defined	Problem or research question adequately defined	Problem or research question vaguely defined	No problem or research question defined
Interdisciplinary approach justified	Interdisciplinary approach thoroughly justified	Interdisciplinary approach adequately justified	Interdisciplinary approach vaguely justified	Interdisciplinary approach not justified
Relevant disciplines identified	All relevant disciplines identified	Most relevant disciplines identified	Student’s disciplines identified	Relevant disciplines not identified
Problem or research questions analyzed and each insight or	Problem or research questions thoroughly analyzed and	Problem or research questions adequately analyzed and	Problem or research questions superficially analyzed and	Problem or research questions not analyzed and each insight or

theory evaluated	each insight or theory evaluated	each insight or theory somewhat evaluated	each insight or theory	theory not evaluated
Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources identified	Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources thoroughly identified	Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources adequately identified	Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources superficially identified	No conflicts between insights or theories and their sources identified
Common ground between concepts and theories created	Common ground between concepts and theories thoroughly created	Common ground between concepts and theories adequately created	Common ground between concepts and theories superficially created	No common ground between concepts and theories created
A more comprehensive understanding constructed	A more thorough comprehensive understanding constructed	A more comprehensive understanding adequately constructed	A more comprehensive understanding superficially constructed	No comprehensive understanding constructed
Reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Adequately reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Superficially reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Did not reflect on, test, and communicate the understanding
Resources cited	APA/MLA citation style used correctly and consistently	APA/MLA citation style used adequately correctly and consistently	APA/MLA citation style used mostly correctly and consistently	APA/MLA citation style not used correctly and consistently
Editing – grammar, mechanics, transitions	There are no major grammatical errors or typos	There are a few major grammatical errors or typos	There are many major grammatical errors or typos	The large number of major grammatical errors and/or typos make it difficult to follow the paper’s argument
Structure and organization – (title, thesis,	Clear, coherent	Adequately clear, and coherent	Paper poorly constructed	Unclear, incoherent

body, conclusion)				
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### Final 10 pp proposal

The Final of the 10 pp paper is designed to allow you to review and rework your proposal.

Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

<b>10 pp Final Paper Rubric</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Maximum points</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Problem or research question defined	Problem or research question thoroughly defined	Problem or research question adequately defined	Problem or research question vaguely defined	No problem or research question defined
Interdisciplinary approach justified	Interdisciplinary approach thoroughly justified	Interdisciplinary approach adequately justified	Interdisciplinary approach vaguely justified	Interdisciplinary approach not justified
Relevant disciplines identified	All relevant disciplines identified	Most relevant disciplines identified	Student's disciplines identified	Relevant disciplines not identified
Problem or research questions analyzed and each insight or theory evaluated	Problem or research questions thoroughly analyzed and each insight or theory evaluated	Problem or research questions adequately analyzed and each insight or theory somewhat evaluated	Problem or research questions superficially analyzed and each insight or theory	Problem or research questions not analyzed and each insight or theory not evaluated
Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources identified	Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources thoroughly identified	Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources adequately identified	Conflicts between insights or theories and their sources superficially identified	No conflicts between insights or theories and their sources identified
Common ground between concepts and theories created	Common ground between concepts and theories thoroughly	Common ground between concepts and theories adequately	Common ground between concepts and theories superficially	No common ground between concepts and theories created

	created	created	created	
A more comprehensive understanding constructed	A more thorough comprehensive understanding constructed	A more comprehensive understanding adequately constructed	A more comprehensive understanding superficially constructed	No comprehensive understanding constructed
Reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Adequately reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Superficially reflected on, tested, and communicated the understanding	Did not reflect on, test, and communicate the understanding
Resources cited	APA/MLA citation style used correctly and consistently	APA/MLA citation style used adequately correctly and consistently	APA/MLA citation style used mostly correctly and consistently	APA/MLA citation style not used correctly and consistently
Editing – grammar, mechanics, transitions	There are no major grammatical errors or typos	There are a few major grammatical errors or typos	There are many major grammatical errors or typos	The large number of major grammatical errors and/or typos make it difficult to follow the paper's argument
Structure and organization – (title, thesis, body, conclusion)	Clear, coherent	Adequately clear, and coherent	Paper poorly constructed	Unclear, incoherent

### **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. Until purchased students can borrow a copy for two-hour blocks.

### **Recommended Texts**

A good dictionary, thesaurus and grammar handbook.

### **Additional Materials**

A binder to contain project 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](#).