

## **Course Description**

### **BIS 310: Interdisciplinary Research and Applications**

#### **CRN:**

Fall 45130/Spring 17100

#### **Credits**

3 credit hours

#### **Prerequisites**

BIS 300

#### **Description**

Critical analysis of quantitative and qualitative information. Emphasis will be placed on understanding and using methods of qualitative and quantitative analysis, including issues such as understanding variability in data and making decisions in the face of uncertainty. Multiple methods of presenting findings of such research to support an argument are also explored.

#### **Department**

Interdisciplinary Studies

#### **College or School**

College of Arts and Sciences

#### **University Mission**

As a regional Carnegie Master's L 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 in traditional and distance education formats. 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 the Educational Specialist degree and Doctorates in Education and Nursing Practice. 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.

Approved by IHL, June 18, 2013

## Course Objectives

### Goals

Students taking this course will:

- study various critical, analytical, and investigative methods of research
- practice both methods of research specific to disciplines and methods used across various disciplines; will investigate methods specific to their disciplinary choices
- demonstrate critical and analytical skills by producing reasoned and articulate written, visual, and oral arguments based on researched evidence
- develop individual and practical skills for research in their areas of concentration

### Outcomes

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

- identify a research problem
- identify the pros and cons of individual disciplines and their methods
- do a literature search
- write an abstract
- write a research paper integrating their disciplinary choices

### 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 within a period of twelve months. 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

All assignments will be based on rubrics. Please familiarize yourself with them as they will guide you.

The course assignments will receive the following weights:

	Points per Item	Number of Assignments	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Class/Discussions Boards	5	10	50	5.00%
Pre-Test	5	1	5	5.00%
Syllabus Quizzes	10	3	30	5.00%
Chapter Quizzes (Ch. 7, 8, 9, & 10)	20	4	80	10.00%
Advising Quiz	20	1	20	5.00%
Research Question/Problem	15	1	15	10.00%
Justification of Interdisciplinary Approach	15	1	15	10.00%
Short Response Paper Chapter 6, 8, & 10	50	3	150	20.00%
Literature Search	30	1	30	30.00%
<b>Total</b>			<b>395</b>	<b>100%</b>




### Assignment Descriptions

#### Coursework:

#### Discussions

Discussion boards 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 expressed.

Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

Discussion Rubric					  	
Criteria	Ratings				Pts	
Description of criterion	Responded to Discussion topic and provided at least two responses to colleagues. 5 pts	Responded to Discussion topic and responded to at least one colleague. 3 pts	Responded to Discussion topic but did not respond to a colleague. 1.5 pts	No response to discussion. 0 pts	5 pts	
					Total Points: 5	

## Research Question/Problem

The Research Question/Problem is designed for you to articulate what will be your project.

Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

<b>Research Question/Problem</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Maximum points per criterion</b>	2.5	2	1
Selected a problem or posed a question that is complex and requires insights from more than one discipline			
Defined the scope of the problem or question			
Avoided disciplinary bias, disciplinary jargon and personal bias			
The problem or question posed is stated clearly and concisely			
The problem or question posed is sufficiently narrow to be manageable within the semesters' limits			
The problem or question posed appears in a context that explains why it is important-that is, why the reader should care			

## Justification of Interdisciplinary Approach




The Justification of Interdisciplinary Approach is designed to help you articulate how the project will be interdisciplinary.

Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

<b>Justification of Interdisciplinary Approach</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Maximum points per criterion</b>	3.75	2.5	1
The problem or question is complex			
Important insights or theories of the problem are offered by two or more disciplines			
No single discipline has been able to address the problem completely			
The problem is an unresolved societal need or issue			

## Short Essay Based on Chapter Text

There will be three short essays based on the chapter text taken from chapters 6, 8, and 10. You will respond as indicated in the assignment and content will be graded according to the below rubric.

Essay Rubric								
Criteria	Ratings					Pts		
Focus & Details	(8-10 points) There is one specific, well-focused topic. Main ideas are clear and are well supported by detailed and accurate information. 10 pts	(6-7 points) There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main ideas are clear but are not supported by detailed information or facts. 7 pts	(4-5 points) There is one topic, but main ideas are not especially clear. 5 pts	(0-3 points) The topic and main ideas are not clear. 0 pts		10 pts		
Organization	(8-10 points) The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, and provides an overview of the argument. Information is relevant and presented in logical order. The conclusion is strong. 10 pts	(6-7 points) The introduction states the main topic and provides an overview of the paper. A conclusion is included, but does not strengthen the argument/position. 7 pts	(4-5 points) The introduction states the main topic. A conclusion is included, but is not especially relevant/supportive. 5 pts	(0-3 points) There is no clear introduction, structure, or conclusion. 0 pts		10 pts		
Voice	(8-10 points) The author's purpose of writing is very clear, and there is strong evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge of and/or experience with the topic is evident. 10 pts	(6-7 points) The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is some evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge of and/or experience with the topic is evident. 7 pts	(4-5 points) The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge of the topic seems limited. 5 pts	(0-2 points) The author's purpose of writing is unclear. 0 pts		10 pts		
Word choice	(8-10 points) The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words seems accurate, natural, and appropriate. 10 pts	(6-7 points) The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words is inaccurate at times and/or seems overdone or inappropriate for the subject matter. 7 pts	(3-5 points) The author uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety and seems inappropriate to the subject matter. 5 pts	(0-2 points) The writer uses a limited vocabulary. Jargon or clichés are not used properly and detract from the meaning. 0 pts		10 pts		
Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling	(8-10 points) All sentences are well-constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes very few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling. 10 pts	(6-7 points) Most sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes a few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but these mistakes do not interfere with understanding. 7 pts	(3-5 points) Most sentences are well constructed, but they have a similar structure and/or length. The author makes several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding. 5 pts	(0-2 points) Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding. 0 pts		10 pts		
						Total Points: 50		

## Literature Search

The Literature Search is designed to help you gather appropriate material for your project.

Your submissions will be measured against the following criteria:

<b>Literature Search</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Maximum points per criterion</b>	15	10	5
Relevant peer-reviewed article or book citation has been documented in the Literature Search Template/Format/minimum of three per discipline			
For each article or book the Literature Search Template/Format has been filled in correctly and submitted/minimum of three per discipline			

Sample Set-up of how to provide the information (This information is also found in the Literature Review template.):

### Article 1

- Source:
- Disciplinary Perspective:
- Thesis:
- Assumption(s):
- Theory(s):
- Key Concept(s):
- Method(s):
- Phenomena Addressed:
- Results:
- Author's Bias:

### Assessments

Quizzes will be based on the readings, the syllabus, and Dr. Bell's advising process.

### 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 to 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 one you will be able to complete assignments.



**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](#).