IDVS 390
Individualized Studies Project: Research and Design
3 credit hours
Spring 2015
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Office hours – T/R 11:30 am -1:30 pm and by appointment (please set up by e-mail)

Syllabus information and assignments may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be informed of any changes in a timely manner and will have access to the updated syllabus on the class website at http://faculty.winthrop.edu/paulinoc

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“What do acid rain, rapid population growth, and the legacy of The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin have in common? Though drawn respectively from the purviews of the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, they can be fruitfully understood as behaviors of complex systems, and they all require interdisciplinary study.”


Course content
This is a course in interdisciplinary research methods. Students learn about the academic field of Interdisciplinary Studies, explore the elements of individual disciplines (domains, driving questions, methods), and get acquainted with different models of integration by examining how the sciences, the humanities, and the arts can combine to address complex problems. Students develop skills in finding and organizing relevant information, examining and critiquing evidence, establishing criteria, synthesizing diverse methodological perspectives, and creating a portfolio for a senior individualized, interdisciplinary capstone project. The course includes writing and oral components, and uses complementary video and Web sources.

Prerequisites: IDVS major and at least junior standing; completion of an approved research methods course within program of study; completion of CRTW 201 with a grade of C or better; or permission of IDVS program director.

Learning objectives
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
• Define interdisciplinarity, and explain how it contributes to more effective solutions to complex problems.
• Demonstrate understanding of epistemological elements in at least two academic disciplines.
• Develop a meta-disciplinary explanation of how disciplinary epistemologies differ and overlap.
• Explore sources, collect evidence, build a bibliography, and set up a detailed research plan that synthesizes multiple perspectives.
• Present and discuss sources, methodology and research plans in a variety of modes, including written assignments, collaboration in a group environment, and oral presentations.

Course Readings

Main text


Complementary readings

- Handouts, articles and excerpts on reserve at Dacus Library.

Requirements

**Oral component**

Reports and presentations (3) 15%
Roundtable discussions (2) 10%
Class participation 5%

**Written component**

Written assignments (3) 30%
Portfolio (research plan, methodology, justification, bibliography) 20%
Midterm exam 10%
Final exam 10%

Attendance

Winthrop policy is that students who miss more than 25% of the classes in a semester cannot receive credit for the course. Given the nature of this class, if you miss more than 3 class meetings, you will be on attendance probation. Each absence after the third class will lower your final grade by 5 points. Being present means to be conscious and aware of what is going on (sleeping will count as an absence). Cell phones and other communication devices must be turned off in class. If they disrupt the class, you will be graded absent. Coming in late is disruptive and three late arrivals (of more than 5 minutes) will count as an absence. Remember to sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of each class period. The last student to sign it will bring it to me immediately.
Late Papers
Papers are due in class on the due dates. A paper turned in within 24 hours will lose one letter grade. If you are more than 24 hours late, you will not be allowed to hand it in. In the event of an emergency, please notify me before the due date by e-mail or voice mail. Official documentation of your excuse is required with a late submission. Computer problems are not an excuse for late work, so be sure to back up your work.

The Writing Center
The Writing Center provides support for all students in all Winthrop classes free of charge. It is located in 242 Bancroft (ext. 2138).

Expectations
• Come prepared to all class sessions, having completed the assigned readings. Bring your texts/reader to class every session.
• Be respectful of other students, and of the instructor, even if you disagree with their point of view (i.e., criticize the perspective, not the person).
• No beepers, phone calls, reading, or eating in class, or anything that is annoying or disruptive.
• Arrive punctually and hand in all assignments on time.
• Provide effective feedback to the instructor regarding your perception of how the course is progressing. Let me know if you are having trouble.
• Come to class with the right psychological and physiological attitude, ready to participate actively in discussions and activities.

E-mail
You must have a working Winthrop e-mail address. All class e-mail will be sent to your campus e-mail address, so make sure you set it to forward to any off-campus account you use. All students must subscribe to the class listserv. I read e-mails once a day and will attempt to answer on the same day. I do not answer e-mails on weekends.

Plagiarism Policy
Please review the English Department’s policy on Using Borrowed Information. You are responsible for reviewing the Code of Student Conduct in your Student Handbook and the description of plagiarism in The Prentice-Hall Reference Guide to Grammar and Usage and for handling source materials correctly. If you turn in plagiarized work, I reserve the right to assign you a failing grade for the course.

Turnitin.com policy
We will be using the Turnitin system this semester. Turnitin password: paulino; course ID: 9390422. I will provide more information on this closer to the date of the assignments. Papers not submitted to Turnitin will not receive a grade.

Students with Disabilities
Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Gena Smith, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your Professor Notification Form, please tell me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first test, paper or assignment.
**Paper policy**
Typed and double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12 point font. Print only on one side of the page. Put your name at the top right of every page with page number. Include cover page with paper title, your name, course name, and date. Staple your pages together - do NOT use paper clips or bend the pages over at the top. Use the MLA format in the *Prentice Hall Reference Guide to Grammar and Usage*. Papers are due at the beginning of each class.

**Exam Schedule**
The final exam schedule for this semester will be followed.
**CALENDAR**

**Week 1** *What is the field of Interdisciplinary Studies and why does it matter?*
Overview of course textbook (Repko)

**Week 2** *What is the Integrative Process?*
The evolution of professions by "cross pollination"
Discussion of Repko Chapters 1&2

**Week 3** *What defines concentration area/s? What is an academic discipline?*
Critical Thinking and the Disciplines (Gerald Nosich)
Discussion of Repko Chapter 3

**Week 4** *How can we utilize disciplines as tools with which to solve complex problems?*
Discussion of Repko Chapter 4 and other readings

*Written assignment 1 due (Thursday): Interdisciplinarity and complexity in your general research area of choice.*

**Week 5** *Why are complex problems such as poverty and hunger so challenging?*
The Humanitarian Experience: Human Rights, International Politics, Global Business
Discussion of Repko Chapter 5 and other readings

*Reports & Presentations 1: defining an interdisciplinary research area and goals*

**Week 6** *What are the many causes of genocide and how can we respond?*
Ethnicity and Conflict: Resolution/International Law, Art and Architecture (War memorials, Holocaust memorials)
Discussion of Repko Chapter 6 and other readings

**Week 7** *Can we co-exist effectively in a global, culturally diverse world?*
Review of Repko Chapters 1-7

*Roundtable Discussion 1*

**Week 8** *MIDTERM EXAM* (Repko chapters 1-7)
Review of material covered

*Written assignment 2 due: how to integrate different disciplines in your research area of choice*

**Week 9** *Can art illuminate biology and poetry lead to health?*
Medicine, Biology, Art, Writing
Discussion of Repko Chapter 8 and other readings

**Week 10** *How can we integrate social needs with business models?*
The work of social entrepreneurs; The Ashoka foundation
Discussion of Repko Chapters 8 & 9 and Miller & Boix Mansilla

*Reports and presentations 2: research outlines*
**Week 11** How can we work towards environmental sustainability?
The many faces of Sustainability
Discuss “Watching the World Melt Away” (CBS/60 minutes August 2007)
Discussion of Repko Chapter 10 and other readings
**Written assignment 3 due: annotated bibliography**

**Week 12** What are some of the world’s technological challenges and what approaches have been tried so far?
Energy Management, Environmental Engineering, Biological Engineering, IPCC research
Discussion of Repko Chapter 11 and Miller and Boix Mansilla

**Week 13** Why is change sometimes difficult? What does it mean to be a leader?
Change and Leadership: Deutschman and Gardner
Discussion of Repko Chapter 12 and other readings

**Week 14**
Reports & Presentations 3: portfolio drafts

**Week 15** What have you learned about interdisciplinary research and practice?
Review of Repko
**Roundtable Discussion 2**
Portfolio due

Exam - May 2nd, 11:30 a.m.