**INTS 4391**

**SENIOR SEMINAR**

**SYLLABUS**

**Spring, 2018**

**David Arditi**

TTH 12:30-1:50 pm ***UH 14***

**contact information**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | University Hall 423 | **E-mail** | [darditi@uta.edu](mailto:darditi@uta.edu) |
| **Office Hours** | MWF 11am-Noon | **Web**  **Page** | Course content available on Blackboard. |

## **Description of Course Content:**

## This course gives students the opportunity to apply interdisciplinary approaches to a problem of their choosing, pertaining to their individual academic or professional goals. Students will investigate their problem using rigorous research strategies. The unique interdisciplinary techniques taught in this course provide students with powerful tools for comprehending complex problems, synthesizing diverse perspectives, and applying these insights to creative solutions to their research problems. The research culminates in a final product consisting of an integrative paper *or* some other creative product approved by the instructor. An active learning approach is used throughout the course, encouraging all students to engage in the independent development of a product that expresses their own expectations and aspirations.

## **Measurable Student Learning Outcomes for Course:**

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Apply Interdisciplinary Methodology to complex issues and problems.
2. Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze written, oral, and visual materials.
3. Apply excellent skills in writing at the college level.
4. Construct cogent academic arguments.
5. Support an argument with empirical evidence.

## **Textbook and Other Course Materials Requirements:**

* readings available on Blackboard

## **Grading Policy:**

The student’s grade for the course will be based on the following activities:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Percent of Course Grade** |
| **Participation** | 10% |
| Research Proposal | 15% |
| Why Interdisciplinary Studies? | 5% |
| Annotated Bibliography | 10% |
| Introduction | 10% |
| Problem Description | 10% |
| Final Presentation | 10% |
| Final product | 30% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

**Late Work Policy**

This course moves sequentially to build research skills; work cannot be made up late without compromising the research process. Therefore. late work is strongly discouraged:

* All due dates on the syllabus are firm and are defined to the minute.
* **Written Assignments may be turned in up to one day after the due date with an automatic 10 point**. Late assignments reduce your margin for error to pass the course.
* **Exceptions may be made when students present documentation of an unforeseeable, significant, and unavoidable situation that prevented their completion of the assignment on time.**

**The Instructor reserves the right to modify assignments with due notice.**

**COURSE CALENDAR—Spring 2018**

**WEEK 1: January 16 and 18**

**Tuesday: TOPIC: Review of syllabus, course calendar, student learning outcomes and class expectations**

**Thursday: TOPIC: Thinking Critically**

**READING: Stuart Hall – “Encoding, Decoding,” (Blackboard)**

**WEEK 2: January 23 and 25**

**Tuesday: TOPIC: Why Interdisciplinary Studies?**

**Assignments:** Why Interdisciplinary Studies—*due Tuesday*

**Thursday: TOPIC: Describing a problem/issue**

**READING: Clifford Geertz – “Thick Description” (Blackboard)**

**WEEK 3: January 30 and Febrary 1**

**Tuesday: TOPIC: Conducting a Literature Search**

**MEET in Library Room 315A**

**Thursday: TOPIC: Writing an Annotated Bibliography**

**WEEK 4: February 6 and February 8**

**TOPIC: Research Problems**

**Individual meetings scheduled during class time.**

**Assignment: Problem Description Due at meeting.**

**WEEK 5: February 13 and 15**

**TOPIC: Careers**

**Tuesday: Independent Workday**

**Thursday: Introduction to Career Center**

**WEEK 6: February 20 and 22**

**TOPIC: Careers**

**Tuesday: Marketing and Branding Yourself (Career Center)**

**Thursday: Independent Workday**

**WEEK 7: February 27 and March 1**

**TOPIC: Focusing your project**

**Individual Meetings Scheduled**

**Assignments:** Proposals due Tuesday, February 27

**WEEK 8: March 6 and 8**

**TOPIC: Writing your Introduction**

**Tuesday: Discuss Introduction**

**Thursday:** No Class (assignment due)

**Assignments: Annotated Bibliography, *due Thursday***

**SPRING BREAK – March 13 and 15**

**WEEK 9: March 20 and 22**

**TOPIC: Synthesis**

**WEEK 10: March 27 and 29**

**TOPIC: Developing common ground**

**WEEK 11: April 3 and 5**

**TOPIC: Independent Research**

**WEEK 12: April 10 and 12**

**TOPIC: Writing an Argument**

**WEEK 13: April 17 and 19**

**TOPIC: Planning the final product**

**WEEK 14: April 24 and 26**

**Final presentations**

**WEEK 15: May 1 and 3**

**Final Presentations**

**FINAL Paper DUE: May 10 at 11am**

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Academic Integrity:** students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Disability Accommodations:** UTArlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit*[*uta.edu/eos*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*.*

To create a safe environment, I personally extend the non-discrimination policy to include: gender-identity or expression, low-income, generation-related education opportunities, marital status, parental status and/or criminal record.

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated.*For information regarding Title IX, visit* [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](file:///C:\Users\arditi\AppData\Local\Temp\jmhood@uta.edu).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Surveys**: At the end of each term, students will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located as discussed in class. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.