

LIBS 3300-130, CRN 80093, INTRODUCTION TO LIBERAL STUDIES
Fall 2017 rev. 08.11.2017 Tues/Thurs. 1-2:15pm Founders Hall 208
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Betty Latham
Office: Adjunct Office WH 419
Phone: N/A
Email: betty.latham@tamuct.edu

Office Hours:

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-11am, Wednesday 2:30-3:30. By appointment.

Mode of instruction and course access:

This course meets face-to-face, (with supplemental materials made available online).
This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System
[<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Student-instructor interaction:

I will check my TAMUCT email account at least every day Monday-Friday, and students can usually expect a reply within 24 hours.

911 Cellular:

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas
911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and description: *Students are introduced to the major issues in interdisciplinary studies. Students research how their academic concentrations emerged as distinct disciplines and produce a research paper and presentation of their findings.*

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Identify the ways aspects of society are inherently interdisciplinary.

2. Recognize key concepts used by interdisciplinarians.
3. Evaluate common assumptions held by various members of the academy/university.
4. Integrate the Broad Model Approach, as presented in the course text, into an interdisciplinary project.
5. Support an interdisciplinary project proposal using appropriately selected scholarly sources.

Required Reading and Textbook(s): **Intro to Interdisciplinary Studies**

Edition: 2nd ISBN: 9781506346892 By: Repko

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course has five gradable components:

Reading Responses (80 points total):

There will be eight Reading Responses. Responses will be worth ten points each.

Reading Responses will ask students to engage, negotiate, and apply the course text to demonstrate an understanding of interdisciplinarity.

These papers will be graded more on the level of engagement with the text than on formal aspects of academic writing, but they should be written clearly and with the audience (your professor and classmates) in mind. Once we have discussed the elements of an academic paragraph and academic styles (MLA, APA etc.) the grading will reflect those expectations.

In-Class Quizzes (40 points total)

There will be eight in-class quizzes during the semester to assess whether students have read and understood the reading material.

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class period.

If you are unable to attend class a make-up assignment will be due *before* said class period and emailed via tamuct email to the instructor.

Mid-term Assignment (40 points):

The mid-term assignment will ask students to demonstrate how a particular problem can be addressed using an interdisciplinary approach. Students will create a poster that will identify, analyze, and critically evaluate at least two disciplinary insights and apply them to a real-world problem. Students will also be required to present their poster in class with a prepared explanation.

Annotated Bibliography (40 points):

The annotated bibliography will demonstrate the importance of disciplinary or naturally

interdisciplinary perspectives to an interdisciplinary project. Students will correctly annotate six articles (either peer reviewed or approved by the instructor) relevant to their final project.

The annotated bibliography will be graded on adherence to the student's chosen style (MLA, APA etc.) and the relevance and quality of the summary.

Final Project (100 points):

The final project will demonstrate understanding of the interdisciplinary process using the Broad Model Approach presented in the text. Although the project will stop short of actual academic argument, the process should be based in recognized scholarship.

The project will consist of

- A class presentation (15 points)
- A poster which provides a brief overview of the project, underscores the important points, and engages a wide range of audiences (75) points
- An annotated bibliography (10 points)
- A 5-6-page paper (without bibliography) divided into the Six Steps of Repko's Broad Model and demonstrates how each step applies (or could apply) to the problem (50 points)

Detailed Assignment Sheets will be distributed as the assignments are announced.

Non-gradable Component

Each student has a unique perspective built by their own experiences and learning and each student's participation in the classroom is key to creating a learning community. Additionally, participation in class discussions builds confidence and prepares students to use their voice and experience for the benefit of any community they inhabit.

Grading Rubric and Conversion

Each assignment will be weighed as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Reading Responses 8@10 points each | 80 points |
| Quizzes 8@5 points each | 40 points |
| Mid-term Assignment | 40 Points |
| Annotated Bibliography | 40 points |
| <u>Final Project</u> | <u>100 points</u> |
| TOTAL | 300 points=100% |

Final grades will be computed according to the following scale:

- A= 90%
- B= 80%
- C= 70%
- D= 60%
- F= 59% or less

Students will earn the letter grade their percentage designates. 89%, for instance, is a B. Please

take every assignment seriously to avoid the frustration of just missing a grade.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted in this class. If attendance in class is impossible, students will email the assignment to the instructor via tamuct email before the beginning of the class it is due.

Posting of Grades

- *Since assignments will be turned in via hard copy during class, they will be hand-graded and returned to the student in class. Once the Canvas component of the course is populated grades will be posted on the Canvas Grade book where students will be able to monitor their status.*
- *Assignments will usually be graded within less than a week, optimally by the next class meeting.*

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Week 1

Tuesday (8/29) Overview of syllabus, expectations, and class introductions.

Thursday (8/31) What is Liberal Studies? An interdisciplinary example and discussion. A Community Classroom.

UNIT 1- UNDERSTANDING INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Week 2: Chapter 1- Interdisciplinary Studies in the Real World

Tuesday (9/5) **Reading Response 1 due.**

Thursday (9/7) In class quiz. Class discussion. Reader Response Assignment Sheet.

Week 3: Chapter 2- The Rise of the Modern Disciplines and Interdisciplinarity

Tuesday (9/12) **Reading Response 2 due.**

Thursday (9/14) In-class quiz. Class Discussion of Concepts presented in chapter.

Week 4: Chapter 3- Interdisciplinary Studies Defined

Tuesday (9/19) **Reading Response 3 due.**

Thursday (9/21) In-class quiz. Elements of an Academic Paragraph/Formatting.

Week 5: The First Three Steps in Interdisciplinary Research, pages 259-293.

Tuesday (9/26) In-class quiz.

Thursday ((28) **Mid-course Assignment Assigned.** Class Discussion of Concepts presented in chapter.

Week 6: Chapter 4- The Interdisciplinary Studies “Cognitive Toolkit”

Tuesday (10/3) **Reading Response 4 due.**

Thursday (10/5) In-class quiz. Class Discussion of Concepts presented in chapter.

Week 7: Chapter 5- Academic Disciplines

Tuesday (10/10) **Reader Response 5 due.**

Thursday (10/12) In-class quiz. Class Discussion of Concepts presented in chapter.

Week 8: Chapter 6- The “DNA” of Interdisciplinary Studies

Tuesday (10/17) **Reader Response 6 due.**

Thursday (10/19) In-class quiz. Class Discussion of Concepts presented in chapter.

Reader Response 7 assigned.

Week 9: Poster Presentations

Tuesday (10/24) Class Presentations

Thursday (10/26) Class Presentations

UNIT 2- THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES and INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND WRITING

Week 10: Chapter 7- Thinking Critically About Disciplinary Perspectives **AND** Step 4:

Conduct a Literature Search, pages 293-305

Tuesday (10/31) **Reader Response 7 due.** Library Visit.

Thursday (11/2) Discussion/Celebration of digital posters. **Annotated Bibliography**

Assigned. Final Assignment assigned.

Week 11: Chapter 8- Thinking Critically About Disciplinary Insights

Tuesday (11/7) **Reader Response 8 due.**

Thursday (11/9) Step 5: Critically Analyze the Disciplinary Insights into the Problem, pages 309-322

Week 12: Chapter 9- Thinking Critically About Integration and its Results

Tuesday (11/14) Reader Response 9 due. In-class quiz.

Thursday (11/16) **Annotated Bibliography Due.**

Step 6: Reflect on How an Interdisciplinary Approach Has Enlarged your Understanding of the Problem, pages 322-330.

Online Assignment Assigned.

Week 13:

Tuesday (11/21) Online assignment due by 11am. Response to 2 peers due by 2.30pm

Thursday (11/23) **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Week 14:

Tuesday (11/28) Class Presentations

Thursday (11/30) Class Presentations

Week 15:

Tuesday (12/5) Class Presentations

Thursday (12/7) Class Presentations

Saturday (12/9) Final Papers submitted by 6AM

Week 16:

Tuesday (12/12) No class. Finals Week.

Thursday (12/14) Conclusions. Class Evaluations. Final papers returned.

Import University Dates:

August 28, Add/Drop/Late Registration begins

August 30, Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 16-week and 1st 8-week classes

September 1, Priority Deadline to Submit Graduation Application

September 4, Labor Day, CAMPUS CLOSED

September 5, Last day to drop 1st 8-week classes with no record

September 13, Last day to drop 16-week classes with no record

September 22, Last day to drop a 1st 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W

October 6, Deadline to submit graduation

October 20, Last day to withdraw from the University (1st 8-week classes WF)

October 23, Add/Drop/Late Registration begins, 2nd 8-week classes

October 26, Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 2nd 8-week classes

October 30, Last day to drop 2nd 8-week classes with no record

November 10, Veteran's Day

November 10, Last day to drop with a Q or withdraw with a W (16-week classes)

November 17, Last day to drop a 2nd 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W

November 23-24, Thanksgiving, CAMPUS CLOSED

December 15, Last day to withdraw from the University (16-week and 2nd 8-week classes)

December 15, Last day to file for Degree Conferral (Registrar's Office)

December 15, Commencement

December 25-January 1, WINTER BREAK

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements.

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

Technology Support.

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

For issues with **Canvas**, select "chat with Canvas support," submit a support request to Canvas Tier 1, or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953, links to all are found inside of Canvas

using the “Help” link.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity.

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student’s work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university’s Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university’s standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

Academic Accommodations.

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University’s programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Larry Davis at ldavis@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

The University Writing Center.

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library on Mondays from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

UWC Addendum

I have been involved with the UWC from before its beginning. I have tutored students since it opened and have witnessed its benefit for students every day. I will be tutoring this semester in addition to teaching. However, it will be a firm policy that I do not tutor students enrolled in classes I teach. If students are inadvertently scheduled in one of my sessions I will refer them to another tutor.

University Library.

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

