

Texas A&M - Central Texas
LIBS 5300 Interdisciplinarity
Wednesday 6:00-9:00
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Allen H. Redmon
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Office Hours: By appointment. The best way to contact me is through my TAMUCT email account. Messages sent to my TAMUCT account will usually receive a response within 24 hours if not much sooner. Phone calls will be returned within one week. I will not use the email feature in Canvas.

This is a face-to-face class that may make some use of the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]. The professor will notify students of which aspects of the course could move online during face-to-face class sessions. Students will need to be in class or arrange a way to talk with someone who was in class to learn the specifics of these courses. Failure to be in class does not excuse a student from the impact of that change.

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.

1.0 Course Description

This course prepares students to assess and to discuss various interdisciplinary topics. The course places particular emphasis on interdisciplinary investigation and the formation of an interdisciplinary scholarly identity.

2.0 Learning Objectives of Course

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to...

- Describe a variety meanings of *interdisciplinary* as the term is used in scholarly discussions
- Interpret a range of interdisciplinary arguments

- Differentiate the objectives of some existing bodies of scholarship from one's own interdisciplinary efforts
- Design an interdisciplinary project proposal that follows the methods of meaningful interdisciplinary research

3.0 Required Textbooks

Adelson, Glenn et al (editors). *Environment: an Interdisciplinary Anthology*.

ISBN: 780300110777

Anderson, Sheldon et al (editors). *International Studies: an Interdisciplinary Approach to Global Issues, third edition*. ISBN: 9780813349329

Casper, Monica and Wertheimer, Eric (editors). *Critical Trauma Studies: Understanding Violence, Conflict, and Memory in Everyday Life*. ISBN: 9781479822515

Johnstone, David. *An Introduction to Disability Studies, second edition*.

ISBN: 9781853467264.

Launius, Christie and Hassel, Holly (editors). *Threshold Concepts in Women's and Gender' Studies*. ISBN: 9781138788800

Sanders, Julie. *Adaptation and Appropriation*.

ISBN: 9781138828995

4.0 Technology Requirements

This course may 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

Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

5.0 Course Calendar

The anticipated activities for each week are as follows:

8/30 Introductions, *Essay of Scholarly Introduction*

9/6 Threshold Concepts in Women's and Gender Studies

9/13	Trauma Studies
9/20	Disability Studies
9/27	<i>Formative Essay One</i>
10/4	International Studies Part One
10/11	International Studies Part Two
10/18	International Studies Part Three
10/25	<i>Formative Essay Two</i>
11/1	Environment Intro and Coda
11/8	Environment: Concepts
11/15	Environment: Topics
11/22	<i>Formative Essay Three</i>
11/29	Adaptation and Appropriation
12/6	Adaptation and Appropriation
12/13	<i>Project Proposal Essay</i>

This schedule may change at the discretion of the professor. All changes will be announced in class. Failure to hear a schedule change does not excuse one from the implications of that change.

6.0 Assignments

This course assigns five essays:

1. Essay of Scholarly Introduction
This essay asks each student to articulate the scholarly backgrounds and interests she brings to the class.
2. Formative Essay One
This essay asks each student to respond to the first three introductions to specific interdisciplinary fields. Special attention will be given to the different methods for organizing these fields, and how those methods can inform one's own interdisciplinary and scholarly projects.
3. Formative Essay Two
This essay asks each student to interact with the intersection of disciplines created throughout our survey of international studies. Particular attention will be given to a nuanced understanding of some of these disciplines, a discussion of where these disciplinary approaches become interdisciplinary, and how these insights might inform one's own interdisciplinary and scholarly projects.
4. Formative Essay Three
This essay asks each student to respond to the topics identified and methods utilized in our survey of environmental studies. Particular attention will be given to the range of topics introduced, and how one's own interdisciplinary and scholarly interests might push these topics in alternative directions.
5. Project Proposal Essay
This essay asks each student to propose an interdisciplinary project that extends from her own scholarly identity. This essay will incorporate aspects of earlier essays, but the focus will be on the proposal of some project that differs in some meaningful way from those introduced in our class.

More specifics will be given for each essay the week before the essay is due. The class session in which the essays are due (see course schedule) will be given to workshop and reflection of the process and assumptions used to create that essay.

Each essay is worth 20 points. An essay that earns an A (19-20 points) will respond to prompts for that assessment in a clear and compelling manner. An essay that earns a B (16-17 points) will respond to the prompts for that essay in a clear and convincing manner. An essay that earns a C (14-15 points) will respond to the prompts in a clear but perfunctory manner. An essay that earns less than 14 points may respond to the prompts for that essay, but they will have missed the objective of those prompts or failed to demonstrate a clear command of their writing.

7.0 Grading Rubric and Conversion

This class has 100 possible points:

Essay of Scholarly Introduction	20 points
Formative Essay One	20 points
Formative Essay Two	20 points
Formative Essay Three	20 points
<u>Project Proposal Essay</u>	<u>20 points</u>
	100 points in all

Final grades will be computed according to the following scale:

- A= 90-100 points
- B= 80-89 points
- C= 70-79 points
- D= 60-69 points
- F= 59 points or less

Students will earn the letter grade their point total designates. 89 points is a B. Please avoid the frustration of “just missing a grade” by investing in every assignment as much as you are able to invest in it.

8.0 Late Work

This course does not accept late work. Students must submit essays on or before the day they are due. An essay that is submitted after the time a class is schedule to begin will earn a zero on that essay assignment.

9.0 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; drops are the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide on the University Calendar a deadline 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. 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.

Students that find themselves facing an unexpected, life altering circumstance before the drop deadline (November 10) should drop the course. Should a student encounter an unexpected, life altering circumstance after the drop deadline, that student may be eligible for an incomplete so long as all work due before the circumstance has been submitted and the student has a reasonable chance to pass the course should the work be completed as soon as the circumstance resolves itself. No student should expect to receive an incomplete.

10.0 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.

11.0 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/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

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.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](#), please visit the website: [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

12.0 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.

13.0 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/]. 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.

14.0 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/].

Important 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 (End of Fall Term)

December 25-January 1, WINTER BREAK

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time