

LIBS-3300-120/130, CRN 10089/10090, INTRO TO LIBERAL STUDIES
Spring 2018 rev. 12.08.2017 Mon/Wed 9:30-10:45 Founders Hall 310
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:

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 et al.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements: (include point values for each- not just a percentage)

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. Each quiz will be worth 5 points

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class period indicated on the course calendar.

If you are unable to attend class a make-up assignment will be due *before* the following 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 MLA style format in addition to the 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
- 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 (60 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 Criteria 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

Complete Course Calendar

Week 1

Wednesday (1/17) Overview of syllabus, expectations, and class introductions.

UNIT 1- UNDERSTANDING INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

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

Monday (1/22) What is Liberal Studies? An interdisciplinary example and discussion. A Community Classroom. **Reading Response 1 due.**

Wednesday (1/24) In class quiz. Class discussion. Reader Response Assignment Sheet.

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

Monday (1/29) In-class quiz.

Wednesday (1/31) **Reading Response 2 and responses to 2 of your peers due in CANVAS** by the end of the day. There will be no face-to-face class.

Week 4: Chapter 3- Interdisciplinary Studies Defined

Monday (2/5) In-class quiz.

Wednesday (2/7) **Reading Response 3 due.** Elements of an Academic Paragraph.

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

Monday (2/12) In-class quiz. Class Discussion of Concepts presented in chapter.

Wednesday (2/14) **Mid-course Assignment Assigned.**

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

Monday (2/19) In-class quiz. Class Discussion of Concepts presented in chapter.

Wednesday (2/21) **Reading Response 4 due.**

Week 7: Chapter 5- Academic Disciplines

Monday (2/26) Class Discussion of Concepts presented in chapter.
Wednesday (2/28) **Reader Response 5 due** (combines points from quiz and RR-15points).
“Name that Discipline”

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

Monday (3/5) In-class quiz.

Wednesday (3/7) **Reader Response 6 due.** Class Discussion of Concepts presented in chapter.
Reader Response 7 assigned.

SPRING BREAK: March 12-18

Week 9: Poster Presentations

Monday (3/19) Class Presentations

Wednesday (3/21) 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

Monday (3/26) **Reader Response 7 due.** Librarian will present.

Wednesday (3/28) Discussion/Celebration of digital posters. **Annotated Bibliography Assigned. Final Assignment assigned.**

Week 11: Chapter 8- Thinking Critically About Disciplinary Insights

Monday (4/2) Step 5: Critically Analyze the Disciplinary Insights into the Problem,
pages 309-322

Wednesday (4/4) **Reader Response 8 due.**

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

Monday (4/9) In-class quiz. Step 6: Reflect on How an Interdisciplinary Approach Has Enlarged
your Understanding of the Problem, pages 322-330.

Wednesday (4/11) **Annotated Bibliography Due.**

Week 13:

Monday (4/16) Practical Exercise in critically analyzing and evaluating insights

Wednesday (4/18) Practical Exercise in critically analyzing and evaluating insights

Week 14:

Monday (4/23) Class Presentations

Wednesday (4/25) Class Presentations

Week 15:

Monday (4/30) Class Presentations

Wednesday (5/2) Class Presentations

Friday (5/4) **Final Papers submitted by 6AM**

Week 16:

Monday (5/7) No class. Finals Week.

Wednesday (5/9) Conclusions. Class Evaluations. Final papers returned.

Important University Dates:

January 2018

January 2, (Tuesday) Winter Break Ends

January 2, (Tuesday) Priority Deadline for Admissions applications

January 5, (Friday) VA Certification Request Priority Deadline

January 11, (Thursday) Convocation

January 12, (Friday) Tuition and Fee payment deadline (16 week & 1st 8 week)

January 15, (Monday) Martin L. King Jr. Day

January 16, (Tuesday) ADD/DROP/LATE REGISTRATION BEGINS (\$25 fee assessed for late registrants) (16 week & 1st 8 week)

January 16, (Tuesday) Classes Begins

January 18, (Thursday) ADD/DROP/LATE REGISTRATION ENDS (16 week & 1st 8 week)

January 23, (Tuesday) Last day to drop 1st 8-week classes with no record

January 31, (Wednesday) Last day to drop 16 week classes with no record

February 2018

February 2, (Friday) Priority Deadline to Submit Graduation Application

February 9, (Friday) Last day to drop a 1st 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W

February 15, (Thursday) Last day to apply for Clinical Teaching

February 23, (Friday) Student End of Course Survey Opens (1st 8-Week Classes)

March 2018

March 1, (Thursday) Deadline to submit application to Teacher Education Program

March 2, (Thursday) Deadline to Submit Graduation Application for Ceremony Participation

March 9, (Friday) 1st 8 week classes end

March 9, (Friday) Deadline for Admissions applications

March 11, (Sunday) Student End of Course Survey Closes (1st 8-Week Classes)

March 12, (Monday) Spring Break Begins

March 12, (Monday) 1st 8-week grades from faculty due by 3pm

March 15, (Thursday) Tuition and Fee Payment Deadline (2nd 8-week classes)

March 16, (Friday) Spring Break Ends

March 19, (Monday) 2nd 8 week begins

March 19, (Monday) Summer Advising Starts

March 19, (Monday) Class Schedule Published

March 19, (Monday) ADD/DROP/LATE REGISTRATION BEGINS (\$25 fee assessed for late registrants) (2nd 8-week classes)

March 21, (Wednesday) ADD/DROP/LATE REGISTRATION ENDS (2nd 8-week classes)

March 27, (Tuesday) Last day to drop 2nd 8-week classes with no record

March 30, (Friday) Last day to drop a 16-week course with a Q or withdraw with a W

April 2018

April 1, (Sunday) GRE/GMAT scores due to Office of Graduate Studies

April 2, (Monday) Scholarship Deadline
April 2, (Monday) Registration begins
April 5, (Thursday) Priority Deadline for International Student Admission Applications
April 13, (Friday) Last day to drop a 2nd 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W*
April 13, (Friday) Deadline for submission of final committee-edited theses with committee approval signatures to Office of Graduate Studies
April 27, (Friday) Student End of Course Survey Opens (16 Week and 2nd 8-Week Classes)

May 2018

May 7-11, Finals Week
May 11, (Friday) Last day to file for Degree Conferral (Registrar's Office)(\$20 Late Application Fee applies)
May 11, (Friday) Spring Term Ends
May 11, (Friday) Last day to withdraw from the university (16 week and 2nd 8 week classes)
May 11, (Friday) Last day to apply for \$1000 Tuition Rebate for Spring graduation (5pm)
May 12, (Saturday) Commencement Ceremony Bell County Expo Center 7:00 p.m.
May 13, (Sunday) Student End of Course Survey Closes (16 Week and 2nd 8-Week Classes)
May 14, (Monday) Minimester begins
May 15, (Tuesday) Last Day to clear Thesis Office
May 5, (Tuesday) Final grades due from faculty by 3pm (16 week & 2nd 8 week)
May 21, (Monday) Priority Deadline for Admissions applications
May 25, (Friday) VA Certification Request Priority Deadline
May 28, (Monday) Memorial Day

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

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

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

Other 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.

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 Academic 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/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>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender – including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Division of Student Affairs at 254-501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

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 Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@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.

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 Monday-Thursday 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](#) at [<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.

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/].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:

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].

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES.

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.

Copyright Notice.

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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