

“...to have only one lens for discussions about language and writing (or most everything else for that matter) leaves us blind to what the lens hides and tempts us to assume that there is only one right way to view things.”

(Peter Elbow)

# LIBS-3300-130, INTRO TO LIBERAL STUDIES

Fall 2020

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

## INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**Instructor: Professor Betty Latham**

**Email:** [betty.latham@tamuct.edu](mailto:betty.latham@tamuct.edu)

## COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

*August 24-December 11, 2020.*

*This is a 100% online course and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [https://tamuct.instructure.com/].*

## Office Hours

*I will have office hours on Thursdays by appointment. We can set up conferences by phone (or via Web-Ex as available) 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 during the workweek. Emails or messages received during the weekend will be answered the following Monday.

## WARRIOR SHIELD

### Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield 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 Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

## COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related

activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
  - o If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.
    - Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
    - Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
    - The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.
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*This is a Writing Instructive (WI) course, so writing will be an integral part of my instruction and our interactions. Writing will also be a fundamental way that I measure student mastery of course content. WI means that you will have several opportunities to work on improving your writing skills.*

## 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. Students will produce a research paper and presentation of their findings.*

### Course Objective and Student 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> ISBN: 9781506346892 By: Repko et al.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

This course has six gradable components:

#### Discussions (105 points total)

There will be 15 Discussion posts worth 7 points each. Discussions will be graded more on the level of engagement with the material than on formal aspects of academic writing, but they should be written clearly and with the audience (your professor and classmates) in mind.

#### Reading Writing Responses RWR (100 points total):

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

RWR's will ask students to engage, negotiate, and apply the course material to demonstrate an understanding of interdisciplinarity.

These responses will be graded more on the level of engagement with the material than on formal aspects of academic writing, but they should be written clearly and with the audience (your professor and classmates) in mind.

#### Mid-term Assignment (40 points):

The mid-term assignment will ask students to demonstrate how a particular issue/problem can be addressed using an interdisciplinary approach. Students will create a digital poster that introduces their selected issue, explains why an interdisciplinary approach is necessary, and proposes relevant disciplines.

#### Annotated Bibliography (60 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 or APA style format and 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 and will integrate Repko et al.'s 6 steps to further an understanding of your research question.**

Ultimately, how you complete the assignment will be up to you.

If you loved the midterm assignment, you may create a series of Digital Slides which contains the information.

Or you may write a more conventional paper using headings and paragraphs.

*Detailed Assignment Prompts will be available as the assignments are announced.*

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### 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. I realize this will look different in an online course. Your participation will be evident in the online discussions.

### **Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion**

Each assignment will be weighed as follows:

Discussions 15 @ 7 points each	105
Reading Responses 10 @10 points each	100
Mid-term Assignment	40
Annotated Bibliography	60
<u>Final Project</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTAL	405 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**

Students should understand that due dates for assignments are purposeful and not arbitrary. They allow students to work through the course at a pace that allows time for each assignment. As such, I expect assignments to be submitted by the due date.

**Late submissions will not be evaluated for a grade.**

### **Posting of Grades**

- *All assignments will be submitted via CANVAS.*
- *Assignments will usually be graded within less than a week and grades will be posted on CANVAS optimally within a week.*

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

Complete Course Calendar: Please note that the Course Calendar is subject to change.

Any changes will be announced in class and noted in CANVAS

### Week 1

Tuesday (8/25) Overview of syllabus and class introductions. What is Liberal Studies?

Thursday (8/27) Nacirema Assignment

### Week 2

(9/1) The Danger of a Single Story.

(9/3) Liberal Studies Discussion

## **UNIT 1- UNDERSTANDING INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

Week 3: Chapter 1- Interdisciplinary Studies in the Real World

Tuesday (9/8) Utopia. UN.

Thursday (9/10)

Week 4: Chapter 2- The Rise of the Modern Disciplines and Interdisciplinarity

Tuesday (9/15)

Thursday (9/17)

Week 5: Chapter 3- Interdisciplinary Studies Defined

Tuesday (9/22)

Thursday (9/24)

Week 6: The First Three Steps in Interdisciplinary Research, pages 259-293.

Tuesday (9/29)

Thursday (10/1)

Week 7: Chapter 4- The Interdisciplinary Studies “Cognitive Toolkit”

Tuesday (10/6)

Thursday (10/8)

Week 8: Chapter 5- Academic Disciplines

Tuesday (10/13)

Thursday (10/15)

Week 9: Chapter 6- The “DNA” of Interdisciplinary Studies

Tuesday (10/20)

Thursday (10/22)

Week 10: Poster Presentations

Tuesday (10/27) Class Presentations

Thursday (10/29) Class Presentations

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

Week 11: Chapter 7- Thinking Critically About Disciplinary Perspectives **AND** Step 4:

Conduct a Literature Search, pages 293-305

Tuesday (11/3) Election Day

Thursday (11/5) What’s Next?

**Annotated Bibliography Assigned. Final Assignment assigned.**

Week 12: Chapter 8- Thinking Critically About Disciplinary Insights

Tuesday (11/10) Step 5: Critically Analyze the Disciplinary Insights into the Problem,

1. 309-322

Thursday (11/12)

Week 13: Chapter 9- Thinking Critically About Integration and its Results

Tuesday (11/17)

Thursday (11/19) **Annotated Bibliography Due.**

Week 14: Step 6: Reflect on How an Interdisciplinary Approach Has Enlarged your Understanding of the Problem, pages 322-330.

Tuesday (11/24)

Thursday (11/26) Thanksgiving

Week 15:

Tuesday (12/1) Class Presentations.

Thursday (12/3) Class Presentations

**Saturday (12/5**

**Final Papers submitted by 11:59pm .**

Week 16:

No class. Finals Week.

**Other Important University-wide dates can be accessed here:**

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

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](mailto: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)].

**Faculty 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.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](#), [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].



If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=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 Office 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 Office 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) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

## **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related 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. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) 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 Associate Dean in 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, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors will return at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111 in the Fall 2020. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing [studentsuccess@tamuct.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@tamuct.edu) .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional

cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **University Writing Center.**

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Fall 2020 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours online Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. 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. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor 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](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

### **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 85,000 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 24 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](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

**For Fall 2020, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.**

## **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].

### **Behavioral Intervention**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

### **Copyright Notice.**

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