

“...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-3300-120, CRN 10331, INTRO TO LIBERAL STUDIES

Spring 2020

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Betty Latham

Office: Adjunct Office WH 419: hours by appointment

Phone: N/A

Email: betty.latham@tamuct.edu

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

January 13-May 8, 2020. Tuesday-Thursday 11:00-12:15. Founders Hall 212.

This course meets primarily face-to-face with some online components. Supplemental materials are made available online through 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 911Cellular 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. 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: 2nd ISBN: 9781506346892 By: Repko et al.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course has five gradable components:

Reading Responses (100 points total):

There will be ten 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 responses 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 (20 points total):

There will be four 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.

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. Students will 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 by applying it to a real-world problem.

The project will consist of

- A class presentation (20 points)
- 3 slides which provide a brief overview of the project and underscore the important points (20 points)
- A 5-6-page paper, exploring a research question, divided into the Six Steps of Repko's Broad Model which demonstrates how each step applies to the problem (55 points)
- A Works Cited page formatted according to the MLA style guide (5 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 10 @10 points each 100 points

Quizzes 4@5 points each 20 points

Mid-term Assignment 40 Points

Annotated Bibliography 40 points

Final Project 100 points

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

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

- *Some assignments will be submitted via CANVAS and others will be turned in via hard copy in class.*
- *Assignments will usually be graded within less than a week, optimally by the next class meeting, and grades will be posted on CANVAS*

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 (1/14) Overview of syllabus and class introductions. What is Liberal Studies?

Thursday (1/16) CANVAS assignment.

Week 2

(1/21) The Danger of a Single Story.

(1/23) Utopia. UN. **Reader Response 1 assigned** and discussed.

UNIT 1- UNDERSTANDING INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

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

Tuesday (1/28) **Reading Response 1 due.**

Thursday (1/30) **In class quiz 1.** Class discussion. Reader Response Assignment Sheet

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

Tuesday (2/4) **Reading Response 2 due.**

Thursday (2/6) Reader Response Expectations. Class Discussion

Week 5: Chapter 3- Interdisciplinary Studies Defined

Tuesday (2/11) **In-class quiz 2.**

Thursday (2/13) **Reading Response 3 due.** Elements of an Academic Paragraph

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

Tuesday (2/18) In-class quiz.

Thursday (2/20) **Mid-course Assignment Assigned.** Class Discussion

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

Tuesday (2/25) **In-class quiz 3.**

Thursday (2/27) **Reading Response 4 due.** Class Discussion

Week 8: Chapter 5- Academic Disciplines

Tuesday (3/3) CANVAS online assignment

Thursday (3/5) **Name that Discipline.**

SPRING BREAK

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

Tuesday (3/17) **In-class quiz 4. Reader Response 6 due.**

Thursday (3/19) Class Discussion of Concepts presented in chapter.

Reader Response 7 assigned

Week 10: Poster Presentations

Tuesday (3/24). Class Presentations

Thursday (3/26) 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 (3/31) **Reader Response 7 due.** Library Visit.

Thursday (4/2) Discussion/Celebration of digital posters. What's Next?

Annotated Bibliography Assigned. Final Assignment assigned.

Week 12: Chapter 8- Thinking Critically About Disciplinary Insights

Tuesday (4/7) Step 5: Critically Analyze the Disciplinary Insights into the Problem,

1. 309-322 Reader Response 8 Assigned

Thursday (4/9) Research Question discussion

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

Tuesday (4/14) **Reader Response 8 due. Extra Credit Response Assigned**

Thursday (4/16) **Annotated Bibliography Due. Online Assignment (RR 9) Assigned.**

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

Tuesday (4/21) CANVAS online assignment

Thursday (4/23) **Extra Credit Response due. Map portion of online assignment due.** Class Discussion

Week 15:

Tuesday (4/28) Class Presentations.

Thursday (4/30) Class Presentations

Saturday (5/2) 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.

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].

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 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, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus 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 have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

University Writing Center.

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

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/) at [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu for any assistance needed with scheduling.

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 UWC is here to help!

If you have any questions about the UWC, 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 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>].

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].

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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