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LIBS-3300-120, INTRO TO LIBERAL STUDIES

Fall 2023

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Professor Betty Latham

Email: betty.latham@tamuct.edu

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

August 28-December 15, 2023

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 virtual office hours on Thursdays by appointment. We can set up conferences via Web-Ex. Email betty.latham@tamuct.edu to schedule.

Student-instructor interaction:

I will check my TAMUCT email account at least every other day Monday-Friday, and students can expect a reply within 48 hours during the work week. Emails or messages received during the weekend will be answered the following Monday. Note that I do not receive messages sent through Canvas immediately. If you need a quick response my TAMUCT email account will be more predictable.

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 [911 Cellular \(Links to an external site.\)](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.

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: 3rd ISBN: 9781506346892 By: Repko et al. You may also use the 2nd edition if available

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course has six gradable components:

Discussions

There will be 6 Discussion posts worth 7 points. 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.

Writing Assignments

There will be 14 Writing Assignments. These assignments will be valued at 10, 15, or 20 points.

Reader Responses will ask students to engage, negotiate, and apply the text material to demonstrate an understanding of interdisciplinarity. Instructions for additional Writing Assignments will be given as needed.

All of these assignments 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.

Poster Assignment (40 points):

This 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, providing you include each step as outlined in the instructions.

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.

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 6 @ 7 points each	42
Writing Assignments 10 @10 points	100
3@15	45
1@20	20
Poster Assignment	40
Annotated Bibliography	60
<u>Final Project</u>	<u>100</u>

Semester Participation Points.

TOTAL 387 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 **generally** be graded and posted on CANVAS within a week.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

- Please note that the Course Calendar is subject to change.

Any changes will be announced in class and noted in CANVAS.

You will notice that the course is divided into 8 Modules plus the Orientation. Each module is designed to be completed within a 2 week period. Any part of each Module not completed within the designated time frame will not be considered for a grade unless previous arrangements have been made with me

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Orientation Module

- Welcome
- Netiquette Statement
- Personal Introduction Discussion 7 pts

Module 1: August 28- September 10

- Intro to Module 1: *The Danger of a Single Story*
- Is it Worth it? Discussion 7 pts
- "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" Discussion 7 pts
- "The Danger of a Single Story" Discussion 7 pts

Module 2: September 11-24

- Intro to Module 2: *Single Story/World Application*
- WA Single Story Application 10 pts
- UN Sustainability Goals Discussion 7 pts
- Chapters 1 and 2 Reader Response 10 pts

Module 3: September 25-October 8

- Intro to Module 3: *Defining and Doing*
- What Does it Mean Anyway? Chapter 3 Reader Response 10 pts
- First 3 Steps Discussion 7 pts
- Issue Exploration Writing Assignment 10 pts
- Poster Assignment Preview

Module 4: October 9-22

- Intro to Module 4: *What do I need?*
- Chapter 4 ID Studies "Cognitive Toolkit" Reader Response 10 pts
- Chapter 6: The DNA of ID Studies Reader Response 10 pts
- POSTER ASSIGNMENT 30 Points
- Explanatory Paper for Midterm
- Midterm Assignment Discussion

Module 5: October 23-November 5

- Intro to Module 5-*What's Next?*
- Peer Review Writing Assignment 15 pts
- Peer Review Post 10 points
- Annotated Bibliography 60 points

Module 6: November 6-19

- Intro to Module 6: *Getting into Disciplines*
- Academic Disciplines RR Chapter 5 20 pts

Research Question or Thesis Statement Discussion 15 pts

- Reader Response 8 10 pts

Module 7: November 20-December 3

- Intro to Module 7: *Almost There!*
- Issue Research Question and Thesis Statement Discussion Topic 10 pts
- RR9 15 pts
- Final ID Project Assignment 100 pts

Module 8: December 4-15

- **Finally Putting it All Together!**
- Final Thoughts and Participation
- Course End Discussion 10 pts
- RR10 10 pts

Other Important University-wide dates can be accessed here:

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html> (Links to an external site.)

Technology Requirements

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/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email 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.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

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

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 Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity 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, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

The following link will provide the information you need: <https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-integrity.html>

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0). [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fsubmit%2fstart%2f53t0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

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. Once you submit the completed 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.

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, 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 [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.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 virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu.

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit [Tutor Matching Services](https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT) [https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote 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 Library & Archives

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](#)

[<https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956>]. 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>]

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

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!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOnline](#) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

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 Wellness and 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/compliance/titleix.html>].

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](#) online

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M–Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

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