



## **Interdisciplinarity**

10184 LIBS 5300-115

Spring 2023 (WEB)

### **COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION**

*This is a 100% online course, and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [https://tamuct.instructure.com/]. This is an 8-week class, ending on March 10, 2023.*

### **INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Stefan Schöberlein (Schoeberlein)

**Office:** 204 J Heritage Hall (I work from home—let me know head of time if you want to meet)

**Phone:** TBD

**Email:** schoeberlein@tamuct.edu

### **Office Hours**

I love to meet and chat, in-person or virtual. However, all of my office hours this semester are “on demand” and have to be scheduled beforehand. Please schedule your appointment here:

[calendly.com/schoeberlein](https://calendly.com/schoeberlein)

### **Student-instructor interaction**

Please contact me via email with any questions you may have. In doing so, please state which course your question pertains to. I’d be happy to talk via phone, zoom, skype, or Webex as well. I generally respond to emails within 12 hours. If you do not hear back from me after 24 hours (during the week), feel free to follow up with me; I will not be offended.

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

**SAFEZONE.** SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
  - o [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756]

- [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp) [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]
- 2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
- 3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

**For updates on COVID information**, please monitor the University [website](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/)  
[https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/]

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Course Overview and description**

This course allows students to assess and to discuss various topic(s) examined from an interdisciplinary approach. Emphasis is upon investigating the contributions of interdisciplinary research in academia.

The introduction to the MSLS consists of two core classes: Interdisciplinarity (this one), and Interdisciplinary Methods (LIBS-5310). The goal of this class is to supply a theoretical framework and to think critically about some of the conceptual underpinnings of interdisciplinary work.

### **Course Objective or Goal**

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Develop an understanding of the epistemological foundations of interdisciplinarity.
2. Recognize key debates in interdisciplinary studies.
3. Critically engage with said debates.
4. Lay a theoretical foundation for their own interdisciplinary studies.

### **Required Reading and Textbook(s)**

There are no required textbooks. All required textbooks are on Canvas

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Course Requirements (as percentage points of final grade):

- **Reading:** This is technically not graded—but the core component of this class. This is a graduate level seminar and requires you to engage with challenging texts. Your task is to be willing to engage with them, read slowly and carefully, and think critically. While the volume of texts is relatively small, they will challenge you. Make sure you leave enough time for your readings. (Note: I am always happy to chat about readings as well—so if you are really struggling, let me know).
- **Discussion board posts** (8 pts each): By Thursday evening of each week, you will submit a mini paper of two substantial paragraphs (roughly one page), interrogating an aspect of

one of the readings for this week that you found *challenging, helpful, or problematic*. Don't just summarize or give your opinion. Dive into these texts and grapple with their argument. The share it as a discussion board post. You may contrast specific points from two readings, if two are available.

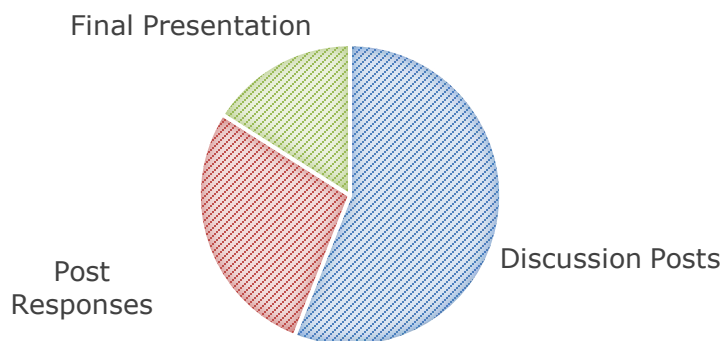
- **Reader response** (4 pts each): Each week, you will read one of your peers' papers and post a reply by the subsequent Monday evening. Engage deeply with their work: this is not a critique, your are not providing feedback. Instead, get to the core of what they are saying and build on it, look at it from a different angle, or contrast it with another reading or real-life context. At least 1 meaningful paragraph (half a page).
- **Find your own text**: While this assignment is due at the end of the semester, I encourage you to work on this early on. Your task here will be to find a paper from the one academic field (traditional discipline or interdisciplinary) that you hope to pursue at TAMUCT and find a scholarly text (book or essay) from that field that wrestles with an interdisciplinary question and read it thoroughly. Make sure you start on this early: you may have to request the book or essay through Inter Library Loan (let me know if you encounter issues with that).
- **Final presentation / oral exam** (18 pts): In the last week of the semester, we will set up a virtual meeting in at timeslot that works for everyone. You will begin by very briefly introducing the text you found for the assignment discussed above. Then you will critically reflect on what was said and draw a connection to at least one of the texts we've all read in class. At the end of these presentation, we will have a short conversation as a group.

If students need assistance in locating sources, they should contact the instructor ([schoeberlein@tamuct.edu](mailto:schoeberlein@tamuct.edu)) or one of TAMUCT's wonderful research librarians: Lisa Hopkins ([l.hopkins@tamuct.edu](mailto:l.hopkins@tamuct.edu)), Dawn Harris ([dawnharris@tamuct.edu](mailto:dawnharris@tamuct.edu)) or Vicky Eastes ([veastes@tamuct.edu](mailto:veastes@tamuct.edu)).

### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Letter Grade Equivalences:

A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59-0



## Posting of Grades

This course will use the Canvas Grade Book. I will try my best to post grades no later than one week after an assignment's due date.

## Grading Policies

Please do keep in mind that this is not a self-paced class. Our assignments have firm due dates. Please complete all assignments on time and in full. Those who fail to meet a deadline will forfeit credit for that assignment. If you foresee any issues, please let me know as soon as possible so we can figure something out.

## Plagiarism

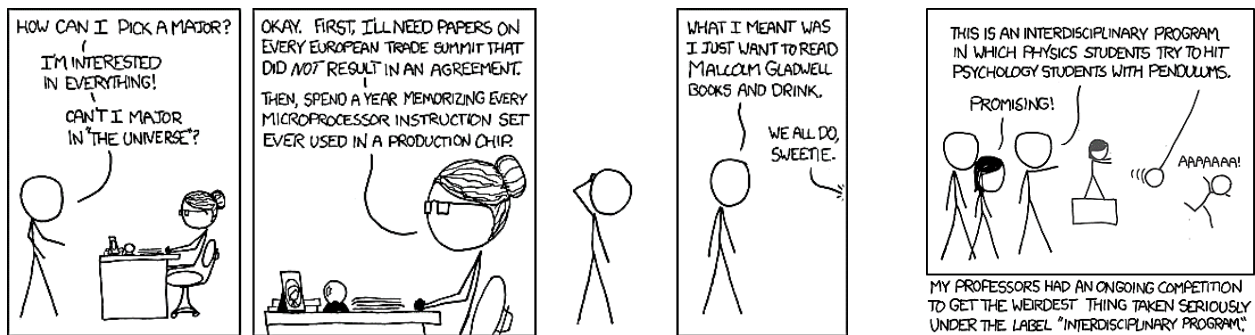
[Plagiarism refers to any use of another person's work without clearly indicating its source.](#) This not only includes word-by-word borrowing without attribution but also insufficient attribution (by, for instance, not using quotation marks for a direct quote), replacing single words and phrases in a copied text, paraphrasing without attribution, or AI-assisted rewriting of a source text. **If you are ever in doubt, I will be happy to help you avoid plagiarizing and double-check work before you turn it in.** If you are caught plagiarizing, you will fail the assignment. Repeated plagiarism (more than once) will result in failing this class.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

### Complete Course Calendar

| Date   | Reading   | Due Dates  |
|--------|---|--|
| Week 1 | Snow, "The Two Scientific Cultures"   | Post due 01/19   |
| Week 2 | Lenoir, "The Discipline of Nature and the Nature of Disciplines"  | Response due: 01/23<br>Post Due: 01/26<br>[1/19: Deadline to Drop First 8-Week Classes with No Record] |
| Week 3 | "Five arguments against" and "The Case for Interdisciplinary Studies"; "Being Interdisciplinary is so very hard to do"  | Response due: 01/30<br>Post due: 02/02   |
| Week 4 | Klein, "Typologies of Interdisciplinarity: The Boundary Work of Definition"<br>Lyon, "Interdisciplinarity: Giving up Territory"<br><br><i>Final Presentation Meeting Time determined. Fill out poll by 02/06.</i> | Response due: 02/06<br>Post due: 02/09   |

|               |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
| <b>Week 5</b> | Lyotard, "The Postmodern Condition: A Report On Knowledge" | Response due: 02/13<br>Post due: 02/16                       |
| <b>Week 6</b> | Latour, <i>We Have Never Been Modern</i> , Parts 1-3       | Response due: 02/20<br>Post due: 02/23                       |
| <b>Week 7</b> | Latour, <i>We Have Never Been Modern</i> , Parts 4-5       | Response due: 02/27<br>Post due: 03/02                       |
| <b>Week 8</b> | Final Presentation Meeting. Time TBD.                      | Response due: 03/06<br>Grades will be submitted 3/12 by 2pm. |



**Important University Dates:**

- January 19, 2023      Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Reg. for 16- and First 8-Week Classes
- January 24, 2023      Deadline to Drop First 8-Week Classes with No Record
- February 1, 2023      Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with No Record
- February 1, 2023      Educator Preparation Program application deadline
- February 1, 2023      Superintendent Program application deadline
- February 24, 2023      Deadline to Drop First 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
- February 24, 2023      Student End of Course Survey Opens (First 8-Week Classes)
- March 10, 2023      Deadline for Admissions Applications (Spring)
- March 10, 2023      Classes End for First 8-Week Session

**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/>] 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](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.*

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## **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](#) 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.

For more [information regarding the student conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.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?PartnerIdId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlssso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fsubmit%2fstart%2f53b8369e-0502-4f36-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](mailto: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) [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) [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 [WCOOnline](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, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

## **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 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)

[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](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/compliance/titleix.html) 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.