

# Sample syllabus for IDS 201

## IDS 201-1002: INTRODUCTION TO INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores what it means to major in Interdisciplinary Studies. In addition to introducing students to key terms, concepts, theories, and methods in the growing field of interdisciplinary studies, the course provides students an opportunity to situate their intellectual interests and professional goals within an interdisciplinary framework. Together, we will trace the history and development of Interdisciplinary Studies and its relationship to other academic departments; examine debates over the purpose of higher education and where interdisciplinary studies fits in these debates; identify core characteristics of an interdisciplinary scholar; specify various writing conventions in different disciplines and fields; and learn to be open to different disciplinary perspectives and ways of knowing more generally. In short, the course is intended to cultivate critical thinking, analytical reading, and effective writing skills.

### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

In accordance with the University's Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULO's), upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Detail the fundamental principles of the natural and health sciences, social sciences, humanities and fine arts.
- Recognize complexity of problems and identify different perspectives from which problems and questions can be viewed.
- Identify potential research topics well suited for interdisciplinary inquiry
- Effectively communicate intellectual interests and professional goals clearly in writing by drawing on common genres and conventions within a particular discipline or profession.
- Express life-long learning skills, including the ability to place problems in personally meaningful contexts, and assess what needs to be learned, articulate a learning plan, and act independently on the plan using appropriate resources.
- Demonstrate awareness of one's own place in and effect on the world.
- Justify and articulate why they have chosen Interdisciplinary Studies as a major

### Course Requirements and Grading:

Assignments	Percentage
Attendance & Participation	15%

Assignments	Percentage
"Identifying Interdisciplinary Thinking" Assignment	5%
Areas of Study Paper	20%
Check-In Exam	15%
Potential Topics Paper (15%) & Presentation (5%)	20%
IDS Statement of Purpose	25%
Total	100%

## GRADE SCALE

A = 93-100, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79,

C = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62, F = 1-59

A grade of C or better is required in all IDS courses for a successful completion of the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree.

\*Assignments are not optional. Students must complete all assignments to receive a grade and credit for the course. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "incomplete," even if you have earned enough points for a passing grade.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Allen F. Repko, Rick Szostak, and Michelle Phillips Buchberger, *Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

Any additional course readings will be available on WebCampus.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are responsible for knowing the course requirements and class policies as detailed in this syllabus. Additional course and university policies are available on WebCampus.

## ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Faithful attendance, reading, and *active* participation (meaningful discussion points, in-class activities, quizzes, and assignments count toward participation) are important requirements. Students are expected to attend class on time; complete the assigned readings; and be prepared to discuss the readings and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions. Unless otherwise noted, it is required that you complete the assigned readings for each week before Tuesday's class. If you fail to bring the book to class, participation points may be deducted. You are allowed three unexcused absences. Upon your fourth unexcused absence, you will receive a failing grade for attendance/participation. Upon your fifth absence you will fail the course. Excessive tardiness will count toward an unexcused absence. Please let me know ahead of time if you are to be excused for religious holidays known to the university administration.

### Schedule of Dates and Assignments

Week of January 21: No reading due. Obtain course textbook, read over syllabus.

Week of February 4: Read Repko et. al, "2: The Rise of the Modern Disciplines and Interdisciplinarity," [List of UNLV colleges and schools](#), [UNLV General Education requirements](#)

Week of February 11: "Identifying Interdisciplinary Thinking" Assignment due in class on Thursday, 2/13

Week of February 18: No Class Meetings, students will meet individually with professor. Read Repko et. al, "4. The Interdisciplinary Studies Toolkit." Assignment due: Submit Intellectual Autobiography or Critical Reflection to the online discussion forum.

Week of February 25: Read Repko et. al, "5. Academic Disciplines. " Library visit 2/27.

Week of March 3: Read Repko et al, "6. The DNA of Interdisciplinary Studies"

Week of March 10: Read Repko et al, "7. Thinking Critically about Disciplinary Perspectives." **Areas of Study Paper due in class 3/12**

Week of March 24: Check-in Exam due 3/27

Week of March 31: Read Michael Seipel, "Interdisciplinarity: An Introduction," Repko et al, "8. Thinking Critically about Disciplinary Insights."

Week of April 7: No Class Meetings, students will meet individually with professor. Read Sample Student Reflections 1-4. Submit your response to student reflections to online discussion forum.

Week of April 14: Library visit 4/14, Career Services Workshop 4/16: Introduction to Career Services and How to Seek an Internship.”

Week of April 21: Potential Topics Paper due 4/21, Potential Topics Presentations

Week of April 28: Potential Topics Presentations

Week of May 5: Submit link for Online IDS Portfolio-in-progress 5/5

May 14: Statement of Purpose Due

## Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](#)

## Auditing a Course

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

## Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and pagers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are subject to the Nevada System of Higher Education's Records Retention Policy, meaning that the recordings can only be deleted 120 days after the end of class (i.e., after grades are posted). Once this requirement is met, the recordings should be deleted. Class recordings are protected from disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

## Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for student or employee violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional [copyright policy information](#) is available.

## Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](#) (Student Services Complex, SSC-A, Room 143, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to a permanent disability, temporary or permanent medical need, or academic support due to pregnancy are encouraged to contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. Students who are already registered with the DRC should request their accommodations online each semester, and make an appointment to discuss their accommodations with their instructors.

## Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](#).

## Identity Verification in Online Courses

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#), which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the [Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy](#), which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

## Incomplete Grades

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

## Library Resources

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries’ Research Consultation](#) website. You can also [ask the library staff](#) questions via chat and text message.

## Missed Classwork

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Classwork policy, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies](#) webpage.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student submits official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a "Drop one" option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate's policy, and an infringement on the student's right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

## Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Sending emails within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

## Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC), at the Claude I. Howard Building, provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](https://www.unlv.edu/asc), <https://www.unlv.edu/asc>, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

## UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the [Writing Center](#), located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

## Diversity Statement

As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see [University Statements and Compliance](#).

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another's points of view, acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.