

# IDS 495A. INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES CAPSTONE

UNLV

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

IDS 495A is designed for senior interdisciplinary studies majors and consists of the completion and presentation of both a capstone project and a portfolio demonstrating a synthesis of the student's areas of study. Students will finish the project (comprehensive research paper, internship, or creative production) they have been working on in previous courses. The portfolio serves as a coherent artifact documenting the personal and intellectual growth of IDS students over time. Both the project and portfolio should illustrate how students have constructed themselves as interdisciplinary scholars and showcase the way students' thinking about their research topics developed throughout the course of the degree. The portfolio is prepared in consultation with the professor. The course must be taken in the student's last semester before graduation.

## COURSE GOALS

The overall goal of this course is to provide students with a forum to demonstrate their academic competency, particularly in their areas of study, and to present their Interdisciplinary Studies project and portfolio to peers and the Capstone Committee. The key component is the project itself, which demands the framing of a significant question or set of questions, the research or creative exploration to find answers, and both written and oral communication skills to convey the results to a wide range of audiences. The project and portfolio will reflect the student's incorporation of these skills on a professional and personal level.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- contribute to critical conversations about interdisciplinary theory and practice
- demonstrate the complexity of problems and identify different perspectives from which problems and questions can be viewed
- transfer knowledge and skills gained from general and specialized studies to new settings and problems, especially by critically and systematically apply interdisciplinary research methods and contrasting theories in examining their research topic
- create a substantial, interdisciplinary, original work using sound evidence
- make their capstone projects and research interests legible to broader audience outside of their respective fields.

- Demonstrate awareness of one's own place in and affect on the world

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research*, Third Edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008)

\*\*\*\*RECOMMENDED READINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE VIA WEBCAMPUS

## ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Attendance & Individual Meetings	10%
Prep Assignments	20%
Rough Draft	5%
Capstone Project	25%
Capstone Presentation	15%
IDS Portfolio	25%

## GRADE SCALE

Your final grade will be based on the points you earn on your assignments by converting raw percentages to a letter grade. I will be happy to talk to you during office hours about how to improve your work before an assignment is due, as well as discuss with you how to improve for future assignments. If you have a concern about a grade, please make an appointment to speak with me directly. Do not wait until the last minute to address grade concerns. You must have a University Excuse in order to make up any assignments. These must be taken on the first day you return, a university excuse doesn't allow you to turn in assignments at the end of the semester. There are absolutely NO late papers taken with an official University Excuse.

## 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.

### ***Attendance and Individual Meetings (10%)***

Learning is a social endeavor and participation is a key component of learning. I expect each and every one of you to be active agents in your own education. Though much of this course involves independent work, we will meet together several times throughout the semester. Take this as an opportunity to engage fellow classmates and to foster a collaborative approach to learning and problem solving. In addition to in-class meetings, students must also attend individual meetings you schedule with me. You will be responsible for signing up for and keeping these individual appointments. Simply put, I will lower the grade of students who do not attend and

participate in class regularly or miss their individual meetings. More than two unexcused absences will result in automatic failure.

### **Course Procedures:**

This course requires a great deal of work for completion and students should expect about 125-150 hours outside of class to complete their project. This is the culmination of your IDS degree and should represent the very best of what you are capable of producing.

### ***Prep Assignments (20%)***

All students (including internship and creative project students) must submit the following prep assignments to ensure progress toward the successful completion of the capstone project and portfolio:

#### ***1. Preliminary Research Paper or Research Proposal (from IDS 494)***

**DUE DATE: Friday, 9/9 Email to Dr. Gage**

Students are required to submit either a preliminary research paper or a research proposal in Week 1. If you wish to submit your **preliminary research paper**, you can simply use the one you wrote in IDS 494, which required you to 1) apply the various methodologies laid out in their proposal to collect sources and evaluate them critically, and 2) develop a working thesis based on these sources. If you submit a **research proposal**, I expect you will use your proposal from IDS 494 because at this point, it is too late to be thinking of what you want to do. However, make sure to submit the most updated, polished version of the proposal detailing your research plan that consists of an abstract, literature review, methodology, project goals, and bibliography. A successful research proposal demonstrates that you have moved from a research problem/topic to an actual map on how you will actually go about researching that topic.

#### ***2. Annotated Bibliography***

**DUE DATE: Friday, 9/16 in class**

In Week 3, Students are required to submit a **2-3 page** annotated bibliography of **8-10 primary sources**. Whereas a standard bibliography is an organized list of sources consulted in the research process, the annotated bibliography includes additional description or critical evaluation (i.e. annotation) of each listed source. The purpose of the annotation is to help us understand and evaluate whether the work cited is relevant to a specific research topic or line of inquiry. Students may write a brief summary identifying the main points of the original work, a critical comment of those main points, or a combination of both. Most importantly, tell us why each source supports your main argument and/or the specific claims you want to make. Each annotation should be no longer than 2-3 sentences.

#### ***3. Prep Assignment #1 Paper Outline/Creative Outline***

**DUE DATE: Friday, Sept. 23 Via Webcampus by noon.**

Submit a schematic outline of your entire paper in Week 4, for those of you who were with before I will expect you to expand upon the outlines you did for 494. By this point in the course, you should be ready to start writing your paper, so the point of this assignment is to figure out how to organize both your research notes and your paper. This will be posted as a discussion post and will be open for your fellow students to offer their critiques of your outline. In addition, every student will need to critique at least two other outlines and offer constructive criticism.

#### ***4. Prep Assignment #2 First Paragraph & Topic Sentences***

**DUE DATE: Friday, October 7 by Noon via WebCampus**

In Week 6, submit the first paragraph, and the first three paragraphs of your paper as well as a list of topic sentences that will begin each paragraph of your entire paper. Again, use the critiques you received on your papers in 494 and fix the elements you needed to address. If you simply resubmit your first paragraphs without any revisions you will have to redo your paragraph. A good first paragraph and strong topic sentences are keys to writing a sound paper that presents your argument in the most effective manner. This will be posted as a discussion post and will be open for your fellow students to offer their critiques of your outline. In addition, every student will need to critique at least two other outlines and offer constructive criticism.

#### ***5. Prep Assignment #3: Complete Outline of Paper/ Creative Project***

**DUE DATE: Friday, October 14 by Noon via WebCampus**

In Week 7, submit a complete outline of your paper or creative project. You will need to include citations for each section of your paper. THIS WILL BE AN EXTENSIVE OUTLINE BUT WILL SERVE AS THE BLUEPRINT FOR YOUR PAPER. This will be posted as a discussion post and will be open for your fellow students to offer their critiques of your outline. In addition, every student will need to critique at least two other outlines and offer constructive criticism.

#### ***Complete First Submission of Paper and Peer Edit (10%)***

**DUE DATE: Friday, 11/21 by Noon via WebCampus**

Submit your paper in its most polished form. In addition to submitting your paper, you will also receive another student's paper to provide peer edits and critiques. Each of you will receive a rubric that you will use as a guideline for giving appropriate and useful edits and critiques. You will read their paper very carefully, provide them with the rubric and a one-page of suggestions.

#### ***Final Capstone Project (25%)***

**DUE DATE: DECEMBER 2, VIA WebCampus by Noon**

Your Capstone Project should illustrate the extent to which you can manage a significant independent study in a thoughtful and professional manner. It is the culmination of your undergraduate degree/program. The project can be a research paper (20-25 PAGES), creative project ( 10-15 PAGES), business proposal ( 10-15 PAGES), or internship ( 10-15 PAGES). Whatever form it takes, it should grow out of your areas of study. You will provide members of

your Capstone Committee with a your completed Capstone Project by **DECEMBER 2** via **WebCampus**.

***Capstone Presentation (15%) DECEMBER 2 AND DECEMBER 9***

After your project is complete, you will deliver a scheduled presentation open to the public in which you will also receive feedback and field questions from those in attendance. These presentations will take place on DECEMBER 2N AND DECEMBER 9TH(**Time, and Location TBD**). The entire presentation will be a total of 30 minutes in length (about 15-20 minutes of presentation, 10-15 minutes of answering audience questions) and should emphasize the findings or results of your project rather than the process.

***IDS Portfolio (25%)***

***DUE DATE: DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> TO THE OFFICE BY NOON!***

At the end of the semester you will turn in a compilation of the works you have completed throughout your course work within IDS and in your areas of study. This is a major component of your grade. Guidelines and requirements are provided on Webcampus and will be covered in class.

**\*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 F in the course.**

**\*All papers must be double-spaced, 12pt font size, Times New Roman font, and 1" margins all around. Failure to format your paper to meet these guidelines will result in deduction of points for the assignment (see handout).**

**\*FAIR WARNING**

I do not accept late papers unless they fall under the University Guidelines for an excuse. This include highly unusual circumstances, such as documented health emergencies (i.e. not "family" or "personal problems"), you should plan now to meet all course deadlines.

**LAPTOP POLICY**

You may use your laptops in class for the purpose of taking notes. If you choose to do something other than take notes you will not do well on your final paper or presentation. Furthermore, I get really irritated when students are on their laptops doing other things and then ask multiple questions after class. If you are easily distracted by the internet then bring paper and pen/pencil to take notes in class and leave the distraction behind.

**CELL PHONE POLICY**

Please turn off your cell phone when entering the classroom. Do not put it on vibrate, turn it off. Anyone receiving, sending, or reading text messages during class will lose points for participation. I might even put you on blast and read your text to the class.

\*Syllabus is subject to change

## COURSE MEETING SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Meets?</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>What's Due?</b>
1	FRI	September 2	Yes	Introduction & Planning	Reading: Booth et. al, <i>The Craft of Research</i> , 105-127
2	FRI	September 9	No	Evidence, Methods, & Annotated Bibliography	Preliminary Research Paper or Proposal*- Emailed to Professor Booth et. al, <i>The Craft of Research</i> , 173-189
3	FRI	September 16	Yes	The Creative Process: Planning & Drafting	Annotated Bibliography
4	FRI	Sept. 23	Yes	Creating the Framework	<i>Prep Assignment #1 Paper Outline/Creative Outline</i>
5	Fri	Sept. 30	Yes	Preparing Your Portfolio	Bring in Binder/Plastic Sheets and Previous Assignments
6	FRI	Oct. 7	Yes	Crafting the Outline	<i>Prep Assignment #2 First Paragraph&amp;Topic Sentences</i>
7	FRI	Oct. 14	No	Independent Work	Prep Assignment #3: Complete Outline of Paper/ Creative Project
8	Fri	Oct. 21	Yes	Revision Process	Complete First Paper Submission/Paper Exchange
9	Mon	Nov. 4	Yes	Presentation Prep Capstone Presentation Workshop and Signup	Comments and Rubric Due
11	FRI	November 11	No	Revisions	Revisions- Peer
12	FRI	Nov. 18	Yes	Mock Presentation Week Revisions/	Mock Presentations—

13	FRI	Nov. 25	No	Thanksgiving Recess	Independent Work—
14	FRI	Dec. 2	Yes	Capstone Presentations	Final Capstone Project Due
15	FRI	Dec. 9	Yes	Capstone Presentations	<i>IDS Portfolio Due to Office by Noon- Dec. 9</i>

**Academic Misconduct**—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; 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 when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**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 employee or student 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 information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy**—*Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the **instructor within the first 14 calendar days***

*of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.*

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching**—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. 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 time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**Tutoring and Coaching**—The Academic Success Center (ASC) 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, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**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 CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail**—*By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail*



*prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.*

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

**Library statement:**

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is ([https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject)). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.