I. Welcome!
So happy to have you in class. Let’s make this an interesting and productive and enlightening semester.

II. University Course Catalog Description
Interdisciplinary studies fosters foundational knowledge acquisition by which individuals draw on multiple disciplinary perspectives and integrate their insights and modes of thinking to advance the understanding of a complex problem. This course introduces the concepts and methods of interdisciplinary studies and the fundamental development of critical and analytical thinking skills. Complex issues are addressed from multi-faceted perspectives that stimulate problem solving, problem defining, and problem posing. Emphasis is placed on how to synthesize evidence drawn from multiple sources as a basis for informed decision-making.

III. Course Overview
In this class we will read a selection of pertinent essays, scholarly articles from various disciplines, as well as, chapters in our textbook in order to gain a better understanding of the purpose and process of interdisciplinary research. We will also watch various online videos to enhance our study of this topic. The course will focus on students learning the conventions required to participate in the interdisciplinary research process. In each instance, we will examine through online discussion, online lecture, and online exercises and study aids what constitutes rigorous interdisciplinary research. We will also learn how to select and use sources suitable for interdisciplinary study. We will formulate a research question suitable for interdisciplinary research, compile and evaluate a casebook suitable for interdisciplinary research, contribute discussion to an online chat room, take short answer quizzes, and answer short essay questions which require critical thinking. There will be other short assignments (both in-class and online) throughout the semester as well.

IV. Course Goals and Objectives
Comprehend and be capable of providing examples of academic disciplines;
Be able to differentiate between disciplinary, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary approaches to learning and research;
Be able to follow and critique interdisciplinary arguments;
Understand the interdisciplinary process and the relevance to career development;
Develop critical thinking skills by using reflection, logic, evidence, and well-chosen examples to support arguments;
Enhance writing skills in exploring interdisciplinary issues, making decisions, and presenting conclusions to others;
Understand how to integrate the perspectives of various disciplines;
Gain an introduction to the Broad Model of the interdisciplinary research process and using the Broad Model Rubric to evaluate work discussed.

V. Course Prerequisites
None

VI. Course Credits
3 credit hours

VII. Required Texts and Materials

Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory, 3rd Edition by Allen Repko and Rick Szostak. (This text will be used again in PRO 325)

This class will be conducted through the UAH Canvas portal. Though this class may be taken entirely online, if some students wish to meet with the professor on Thursday evenings from 5:45 to 8:20, the professor will be available; you must, however, give the professor at least 24 hours’ notice that you wish to meet. You should check Canvas regularly for course announcements, assignments, etc. You will access Canvas in order to read articles and watch videos also required for this course. You will also use Canvas to write your chat discussions. Canvas will be where you turn in your papers and take your quizzes. In order to use Canvas, you must have regular access to an internet connected computer that uses an up-to-date web browser with standard plug-ins and players.

Canvas training sessions are available at the beginning of each term to introduce students to UAH’s learning management system. The training will cover the Canvas dashboard, course basics, files, syllabus, the Canvas inbox, the left navigation bar, and basic course settings. The target audience for this session will be new users of Canvas and those interested in refreshing their skills.

Following training, it is the student’s responsibility to configure his/her computer to take full advantage of Canvas and to seek assistance if needed. For instructions, follow the guidelines on the opening page of Canvas. If the student is experiencing difficulties with the course management system, he/she must contact the UAH Help Desk to resolve the issues. Issues with Canvas are not an excuse to hand in assignments late. The Help Desk number is 256-824-3333 and the email address is helpdesk@uah.edu.

VIII. Absence/Late Work Policy

Though this class may be taken entirely online, if some students wish to meet with the professor on Thursday evenings from 5:45 to 8:20, the professor will be available; you must, however, give the professor at least 24 hours’ notice that you wish to meet.

All assignments are known well in advance. You are allowed one late assignment (turned in by week’s end to receive credit). No other late assignments will be accepted unless previous arrangements have been made. Turn assignments in on time, even if you miss class.

IX. UAlert Emergency Notification System

UAH has implemented the UAlert emergency notification system. UAlert allows students to receive time sensitive emergency messages in the form of email, voice mail, and/or text messages. Participation in UAlert is optional, but enrollment is strongly encouraged. To register for UAlert, go to www.uah.bbcportal.com and click on the “Sign Me Up!” link. The information provided is considered confidential and will not be shared or used for purposes other than emergency notification.
X. **Basis for Final Grade**

Your grade will be based on your performance on satisfactory completion of weekly online group discussions, a series of short answer quizzes over the readings, a series of critical thinking short answer assignments, an interdisciplinary research question assignment, compilation and evaluation of an interdisciplinary research casebook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Group Discussions</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Answer Quizzes</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Questions</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Research Question</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casebook</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Grading Scale by Points**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900-1000</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-899</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700-799</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-599</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XI. **Grade Dissemination**

Graded papers, tests, and materials in this course will be returned individually on Canvas.

XI. **Technology and Media**

**Email:** My email address is [smm0053@uah.edu](mailto:smm0053@uah.edu) or [melissa.morphew@uah.edu](mailto:melissa.morphew@uah.edu). I will check my emails at the beginning of the day, the middle of the day, and before I leave my office. If you have an emergency and need to contact me immediately, it would probably be better to call me at my office extension 256-824-6429. If you haven’t heard back from me within 24 hours over the course of a weekday resend the email. I will check my emails sporadically on the weekends, so an email response over the weekend may take longer. If you have a technical problem with Canvas, you should contact the Canvas help desk [helpdesk@uah.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uah.edu).

**Cell Phones, Pagers, and Laptops**

As members of the classroom community, all students have a responsibility to others who are a part of that community. The goal is to produce an environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect. Cell phones, laptop computers, pagers, and similar devices have become increasingly a part of life in our society; however, when used in the classroom environment they can become disruptive. Laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones may be used for note taking purposes if they are not disruptive to other class members. Students are to turn off cell phones, pagers, and other similar electronic equipment while in the classroom or put them on vibrate. If there is an emergency situation for a student, that student should inform the instructor and place himself/herself in a seat near the door where an exit for a phone call would be only minimally disruptive.

With instructor approval, students may record lectures, take notes via laptop computer, etc., provided that they do not disturb other students in the process. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.
Any use of cell phones or other electronic devices during a test period is prohibited. Even the visible presence of a cell phone or other device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of a cell phone during a test could result in a charge of academic dishonesty. During the test these instruments should be left at home or stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student.

XII. Course Policies: Student Expectations

**Academic Dishonesty:**

The following definition comes from the UAH Student Handbook Code of Student Conduct: [www.uah.edu/student-support/student-conduct](http://www.uah.edu/student-support/student-conduct)

The Office of Student Conduct administers and helps enforce the policies of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. The primary focus is on helping students learn from the consequences of their actions and become a positive influence within the UAH community and beyond.

Every student and student organization at the University shall be required to act lawfully and in such a way as not to affect adversely the educational processes of the University or the rights of members of the University community and others. Violation of this general standard of behavior shall be considered misconduct under this Code. Conduct off-campus as well as that taking place on University property is fully within the scope of this Code. The types of misconduct set forth below specifically prohibited, and individuals or student organizations found responsible for any such misconduct by the procedures set forth in this Code shall be subject to a University sanction.

7.2.1 Academic Misconduct

All forms of academic dishonesty, including, but not restricted to, the following:

a. Copying from another student’s exam paper.
b. Using materials during a test not authorized by the person giving the exam.
c. Collaborating or failing to prevent collaboration during a test with any other person by giving or receiving information without authority.
d. Stealing, buying, or otherwise obtaining all or part of an exam
e. Selling or giving away all or part of an exam.
f. Bribing any other person to obtain an exam or information about an exam.
g. Substituting for another student, or permitting any other person to substitute for oneself, to take an exam.
h. Submitting as one’s own, in fulfillment of academic requirements, any theme, report, term paper, essay, or other written work; any speech or other oral presentation; any painting, drawing, sculpture, musical composition or performance, or other aesthetic work; any computer program; any scientific experiment, laboratory work, project, protocol, or the results thereof; etc., prepared totally or in part by another.
i. Selling, giving, or otherwise supplying to another student for use in fulfilling academic requirements any work described above.
j. "Plagiarism," defined as the use of any other person’s work (such work need not be copyrighted) and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own work offered in fulfillment of academic requirements. This includes the use and incorporation, without acknowledgement, of the wording or expressions (even if paraphrased), information, facts, arguments, analysis, or ideas of another.
k. Submitting in fulfillment of academic requirements, if contrary to course regulations, any work previously presented, submitted, or used in any course.
l. Falsifying records, laboratory results, or other data used in a course.
m. Cheating or deceit in any other manner.

**Services for Students with Disabilities:**
The University of Alabama in Huntsville will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you need support assistance because of a disability, you may be eligible for academic accommodations. Students may contact Disability Support Services (DSS) by calling 256-824-1997 or going to room 317 in Wilson Hall. More information is available at [www.uah.edu/disability](http://www.uah.edu/disability). Students should identify themselves to the Disability Support Office and their instructor as soon as possible to coordinate accommodations.
Instructor Evaluations:
Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:
The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:
www.uah.edu/student-support/student-conduct

Additional Writing Support:
The Student Success Center located in the library offers tutoring services on a drop-in or by appointment basis; however, they prefer for you to make an appointment online: www.uah.edu/SSC
You can also come see me or Kellee Crawford. Some good online sources include Purdue’s OWL https://owl.english.purdue.edu/ or the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill’s Writing Center www.writingcenter.unc.edu

XIII. Important Dates to Remember
September 4th Labor Day Holiday—the University is Closed.
October 5th-7th Fall Break—No Classes.
Dates and assignments on this syllabus are tentative, and can be changed at the discretion of the professor.

Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignments To Do Before You Watch the Online Lectures:</th>
<th>Online Assignments And Due Dates:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Aug 16 | Read Chapter 1 in your text *Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory* | Watch/listen to Lecture 1
|       |                                                        | Complete the group discussion and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 1 and/or listed on Canvas. |
|       |                                                        | Complete Quiz 1. |

You will find the detailed versions of these assignments and their specific criteria on Canvas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Aug 21 | Read Chapter 2 in your text *Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory* | Watch/listen to Lecture 2  
Complete the group discussion and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 2 and/or listed on Canvas.  
Complete Quiz 2.                                                                 |
| Aug 28 | Read Chapter 3 in your text *Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory* | Watch/listen to Lecture 3  
Complete the group discussion and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 3 and/or listed on Canvas.  
Complete Quiz 3.                                                                 |
| Sep 4  | Read Chapter 4 in your text *Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory* | Interdisciplinary Research Question Assignment  
Due by 11:59 p.m. September 5.  
Watch/listen to Lecture 4.  
Complete the group discussion and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 4 and/or listed on Canvas.  
Complete Quiz 4.  
(September 4th is the Labor Day Holiday but it doesn’t affect this class—I have noted it because it may affect your other classes—I have also changed the due date of your research question assignment to Tuesday the 5th instead of Monday the 4th.) |
| Sep 11 | Read Chapter 5 in your text *Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory* | Watch/listen to Lecture 5.  
Complete the group discussion, and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 5 and/or listed on Canvas.  
Complete Quiz 5.                                                                 |
| Sep 18 | Read Chapter 6 in your text *Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory* | Watch/listen to Lecture 6.  
Complete the group discussion, and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 6 and/or listed on Canvas.  
Complete Quiz 6.                                                                 |
| Sep 25 | Catch up week                                                        | Complete the group discussion and any other assignments listed on Canvas.  
Work on Casebook due by October 3rd.                                                                 |
| Oct 3 | Final class day | Turn in final project Casebook by 5:00 p.m. on October 3rd |

* Note: The Schedule is subject to revision