Professional Studies 325—Academic Writing in Professional Studies
Professional Studies Department
The University of Alabama in Huntsville

COURSE SYLLABUS

This syllabus is a general guide and may be subject to various adjustments and changes.

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Morphew
Office: Wilson 105
Phone: 256-824-6429
E-Mail: smmt0054@uah.edu or melissa.morphew@uah.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment (Can be done through Skype)

Term: Summer 2017
Class Meeting Days: Online
Class Meeting Hours: Online
Class Location: Online
Class Credit: 3 Hours

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 research is a contemporary decision-making process for transcending the scope of a single discipline or program to develop insights that offer bold advances in knowledge, solutions to urgent societal problems, an edge in technological innovations, and a more integrative knowledge of multidisciplinary theories and concepts. This course introduces the primary drivers for interdisciplinary research and examines the interdisciplinary research process. Students will apply an integrated model for conducting research that draws on multiple disciplines.

III. Course Overview
In this class we will read a selection of scholarly articles which use an interdisciplinary approach and then we will analyze how well each article utilizes and/or conforms to the Interdisciplinary Research Process as outlined by Repko and Szostak. We will also watch various online videos and documentary shorts to enhance our study of this topic. The course will focus on students learning the conventions on interdisciplinary research while also examining some of the debates about this research that are still ongoing in this academic field. In each instance, we will examine through online discussion, online lecture, and online exercises and study aids what constitutes rigorous interdisciplinary research. We will learn how to identify scholarly works written from a disciplinary approach versus those written from an interdisciplinary approach in order to better our understanding of exactly what interdisciplinary scholarship entails. We will research and analyze published scholarly papers, contribute discussion to an online chat room, take an open mid-term exam which will assess the students understanding of the IRP, and complete a final project in which students will analyze four scholarly articles for their adherence or non-adherence to the IRP as well as overall quality. Students will be given a detailed template to follow in order to complete their final project. There will be other short assignments throughout the semester as well.

IV. Course Goals and Objectives
Students will understand the primary drivers of interdisciplinary learning and research.
Students will learn the interdisciplinary research process (IRP) as a decision-making process.
Students will identify the ten steps of the integrated model for interdisciplinary research.
Students will recognize the role of the disciplines and how to apply disciplinary perspectives when researching a particular interdisciplinary problem.
Students will understand how to map a problem to reveal its disciplinary parts using four different mapping processes: research, concept, theory, and systems.

Students will be able to conduct a library-based interdisciplinary literature search.

Students will understand the applications of quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Students will define the process and the product of interdisciplinary integration.

Students will learn the four holistic approaches to test or assess the result of the interdisciplinary research.

Students will enhance their writing skills and exercise critical and analytical thinking through discussions and assignments.

V. **Course Prerequisites**

PRO 310 and PRO 325 or Permission of the College of Professional Studies.

VI. **Course Credits**

3 credit hours

VII. **Required Texts and Materials**


Several handouts of interdisciplinary research articles which will be available on Canvas.

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 Monday 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, messages, 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 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 Monday 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 take home mid-term, a short argumentative essay that doesn’t require research, a short argumentative essay that does require research, an annotated bibliography, and a final long argumentative essay that does require research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Discussions</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of Scholarly Articles for Specific Interdisciplinary Traits</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project: Analysis of 4 Scholarly Articles as to Their Successful (or Unsuccessful) Use of the IRP</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale by Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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 or 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.

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

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. 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

Dates and assignments on this syllabus are tentative, and can be changed at the discretion of the professor. November 22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday

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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You will find the detailed versions of these assignments and their specific criteria and due dates on Canvas.</td>
<td>You will find the detailed versions of these assignments and their specific criteria on Canvas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>Read Chapter 6 in Interdisciplinary Research</td>
<td>Watch/listen to Lecture 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read the handout of the scholarly article—you will find a link to it in the module for this chapter on Canvas.</td>
<td>Complete the group discussion and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 1 and/or listed on Canvas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>Read Chapter 7 in Interdisciplinary Research</td>
<td>Watch/listen to Lecture 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read the handout of the scholarly article—you will find a link to it in the module for this chapter on Canvas.</td>
<td>Complete the group discussion and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 2 and/or listed on Canvas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Instructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>Read Chapter 8 in <em>Interdisciplinary Research</em></td>
<td>Watch/listen to Lecture 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read the handout of the scholarly article—you will find a link to it in the module for this chapter on Canvas.</td>
<td>Complete the group discussion and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 3 and/or listed on Canvas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Begin Mid-Term Take Home Exam on Evaluating Articles for Their Use of the IRP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Read Chapter 9 in <em>Interdisciplinary Research</em></td>
<td><strong>Mid-Term Take Home Exam Due by 11:59 p.m.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read the handout of the scholarly article—you will find a link to it in the module for this chapter on Canvas.</td>
<td>Watch/listen to Lecture 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete the group discussion and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 4 and/or listed on Canvas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>Read Chapter 10 in <em>Interdisciplinary Research</em></td>
<td>Watch/listen to Lecture 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read the handout of the scholarly article—you will find a link to it in the module for this chapter on Canvas.</td>
<td>Complete the group discussion, and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 5 and/or listed on Canvas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Read Chapter 11 in <em>Interdisciplinary Research</em></td>
<td>Watch/listen to Lecture 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read the handout of the scholarly article—you will find a link to it in the module for this chapter on Canvas.</td>
<td>Complete the group discussion, and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 5 and/or listed on Canvas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Read Chapters 12 and 13 in <em>Interdisciplinary Research</em></td>
<td>Watch/listen to Lecture 7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Choose your scholarly articles for your final project.</td>
<td>Complete the group discussion and any other assignments mentioned in Lecture 6 and/or listed on Canvas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Happy *Día De Los Muertos*!!!!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov 29</th>
<th>Continue Work from previous week.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Final Project due.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Analysis Project Due December 6 by 11:59 P.M.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: The Schedule is subject to revision