

Interdisciplinary Methods

XIDS-3000

Spring 2021 Section 02 3 Credits 01/09/2021 to 05/11/2021 Modified 01/12/2021

Description

Systematic engagement with the interdisciplinary research process.

Requisites

Prerequisites:

XIDS 2000

Corequisites:

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. David Newton

Email: dnewton@westga.edu

Office: Mandeville Hall 211

Phone: 678-839-5230

Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM, Mandevill Hall 211

Tuesday, Thursday, 4:45 PM to 5:30 PM, Pafford 107

And by appointment (email to schedule)

Virtual office hours through Google Meet available by appointment (email to schedule)

Conferences & Outside Assistance:

I am available to meet with you outside of class to discuss your progress and to assist you with upcoming assignments, readings, and homework. I am also available to go over graded assignments with you to help you improve your learning. If you are having trouble with material in this course or have questions and/or concerns you would like to discuss—including COVID-19, safety, or health concerns—please set up a time to meet with me. My office hours are listed on this syllabus, but I am available to meet with you at other days and times throughout the week, if you make arrangements in advance. We can also meet virtually through CourseDen or Google Meet. Call my office phone number above or email to set up an office or virtual meeting. I am committed to helping you learn and be successful in this course.

Meeting Times

Tuesday, Thursday, 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM, Pafford 107

This course is designated as Technology Enhanced (T), which means technology—including CourseDen—is used in delivering instruction, but no class sessions are replaced by technology. In other words, this is not a fully online course.

Materials

You do not need to purchase any textbooks for this course. All readings will be provided via links on the Course Schedule in CourseDen. You should bring reading assignments to class with you, either in print form or digitally since we will use them as part of our in-class work.

Outcomes

This course engages students in interdisciplinary methodology, that is, the theories, concepts, and practices by which the interdisciplinary process is carried out. While interdisciplinary practice has varied goals--from knowledge-production to problem-solving to creative endeavors and exhibitions--the common elements are complexity and integration. Interdisciplinary work is motivated by phenomena or problems that are "complex" in the sense that they can only be fully understood or solved by integrating (or synthesizing) insights and methods from multiple academic disciplines. In this course students will be introduced to ways of achieving interdisciplinary synthesis to address complex problems. Specifically, students having taken this course will be able to:

- Identify and describe the defining elements of a "discipline".
- Describe the interdisciplinary problem-solving/creative process.
- Explain the importance of integration.
- Define a problem or ask a question appropriate for the interdisciplinary process.
- Apply interdisciplinary techniques to address a complex question or problem.

Evaluation

Your course grade will be based on the following:

05% Course participation	05% Proposal draft
05% Facilitating in-class discussion	25% Proposal final draft
50% Assignments	10% Oral presentation

The final letter grade is assessed based on the quality of the work produced over the entire semester and corresponds to the following percentages:

90% - 100% → A = "excellent" work

80% - 89% → B = "very good" work

70% - 79% → C = "satisfactory" work

60% - 69% → D = "minimally adequate" work

50% - 59% → F = "unsatisfactory" work

Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Course Participation	5%		The participation grade is earned in three ways: 1) being present in class from beginning to end (I maintain a record of this); 2) taking part in, and contributing to, classroom discussions and activities (I maintain a record of this); and 3) and having access in class to the assigned readings and assignments (physically or digitally).
Discussion Leader / Facilitator	5%		Several times during the term you will lead and/or actively support discussion of a particular reading or in-class assignment. Leading a discussion will require some preparation beyond what you would typically do for a class meeting. As discussion leader, you will (1) provide a brief overview of the reading--the main/overarching point and how it relates to our overall learning in this course; and (2) pose several (at least two) questions or issues for discussion. Additionally, (3) the discussion leader will create and provide a learning aid, such as a 1 page handout, that effectively helps to clarify, organize, and/or promote discussion and understanding. I will provide you with additional guidelines to help you prepare for your work in leading discussions.

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Assignments	50%		You will complete written assignments throughout the course. Assignments will vary both in content and length, but all are aligned with course content and learning outcomes. Instructions and deadlines for each assignment will be posted in CourseDen. Along with meeting the specific criteria provided in each assignment guide, assignments should also meet college-level expectations for organization and effective, professional writing.
Proposal Draft	5%		In this course you will develop a proposal for an interdisciplinary project that will become the focus of your interdisciplinary capstone (XIDS 4000). You will submit both draft and final versions of the proposal. You will receive additional details about both the draft and the final proposal later in this course.
Final Proposal	25%		In this course you will develop a proposal for an interdisciplinary project that will become the focus of your interdisciplinary capstone (XIDS 4000). You will submit both draft and final versions of the proposal. You will receive additional details about both the draft and the final proposal later in this course.
Oral Presentation of Proposal	10%		At the end of the course, you will make a clear, well-developed presentation of your capstone proposal to the class. You will receive additional guidelines for organizing the oral presentation later in this course.

Breakdown

Assignments

Assignments

Guidelines for assignments will be posted on CourseDen.

Schedule

Course Policies and Resources

Classroom Organization & COVID-19 Protocols

Here are links to the most essential information you need to know for COVID-19 policies & protocols at UWG:

[What students need to know for spring semester 2021](#)

[What to do if you are sick & steps for reporting positive COVID-19 results or close contact](#)

[Face Covering Requirements](#)

[UWG COVID-19 Information & Resources](#)

This class is scheduled to meet face-to-face in Pafford 107 and will follow all of the university policies related to COVID-19 that are described in the links above. As a class, we will commit to the following:

We will keep each other safe by wearing masks while in Pafford Hall and in our classroom.

We will keep each other safe by maintaining a safe distance from others and by sitting in designated desks only.

We will follow UWG protocols for reporting positive COVID-19 results or close contact, and we will stay home if we have symptoms or believe we have come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

If you have questions or concerns about any of these, please reach out to me. My primary goal—along with helping you learn—is to maintain a learning environment where we are safe.

This course is designated as Technology Enhanced (T), which means technology—including CourseDen—is used in delivering instruction, but no class sessions are replaced by technology. In other words, this is not a fully online course. This course will utilize CourseDen, where you can find the most essential information and materials related to this class, including course

syllabus, course schedule (updated as needed), readings, some presentations, and assignments. However, many important elements of this class—essential to your success—will not be found online, including some in-class presentations. There are also some required in-class assignments (such as class participation, oral presentations and editing workshops) that are part of your final grade. For these reasons, it is important for you to attend class, and my expectation is that all of us will be present for every class. I also realize that as a result of COVID-19, we are working together in a semester that will require flexibility and adaptability. Changes to the course schedule and to our meeting arrangements (face-to-face or virtual) may occur. I will communicate with you about those as needed. It is your responsibility as well to communicate with me about your status in this course, so that I can best assess your participation.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices may be used for class-related work only. Please turn off or silence all cell phones and other communication devices before entering class. No text messaging or phone calls are permitted during class. Use of cell phones for these purposes will result in your dismissal from class and a deduction in your participation grade.

UWG Email & Course Communication

UWG students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account, which is the official means of communication about courses. It is your responsibility to check your MyUWG email regularly for course information. Please use your MyUWG email in all communications about this course that you send to me. Do not use outside email accounts. Typically, I will respond to email within one business day, usually sooner. Response times may be longer on the weekend. If there is an emergency, you also can contact me at my office phone (678-839-5230). Please make sure to include your name, contact information, and the purpose of your call. Email messages should begin with a professional address line, use appropriate professional language, and reasonably edited prose (i.e. complete sentences, correct spelling, no text-messaging lingo, etc.). Include your name and the course title and number (XIDS 3000). This helps me keep track of our correspondence.

Remind Notifications

In addition to UWG email, *Remind* (<https://www.remind.com>) will be used for announcements in this course. These typically include last minute changes in the schedule, reminders about upcoming quizzes and exams, or—in rare instances—class cancellations. Using *Remind* means you do not have to sign in to CourseDen to see new course announcements or updates, and your phone number remains private. Signing up is optional. Once the course has ended, you will be removed from the notification system. Information about how to use *Remind* can be found on CourseDen. You can receive announcements directly via text message or you can download the *Remind* app. To sign up for notifications on your phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: [rmd.at/xids3000](https://www.remind.com/join/xids3000). If you don't have a smartphone, get notifications by texting the message *@xids3000* to the number 81010 or by texting *@xids3000* to (678) 971-3753. You can also sign up for email notifications by going to <https://www.remind.com/join/xids3000>.

Accessibility Services

If you have a documented disability, you may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to your disability. Access to accommodations are based on documentation and UWG and USG standards. If you need course or classroom adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, you should notify me in writing and provide a copy of your Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. If you have a registered disability through UWG, see me at the beginning of the semester so that I can work with you to determine what accommodations might be warranted. For more information, contact Accessibility Services at 678-839-6428 or email counseling@westga.edu. You can also find information through the [Counseling Center](#). *Per UWG policies, faculty cannot offer accommodations without receipt in advance of the SAR; also, no retroactive accommodations can be approved.*

Classroom Etiquette and Disruptive Behavior

This is a college classroom and a professional setting, similar to a work environment. Your behavior should be professional as well. This means arriving on time, having all assignments prepared and readings available for use in class. You may bring drinks to class (make sure containers have lids) but no food is allowed. Students may be dismissed from any class meeting during which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes—but is not limited to—arriving late for class, speaking disrespectfully to others in the class, and using electronic devices for non-class related reasons (including

checking email or texting). Each dismissal of this kind will result in a reduction in your course participation grade. Repeated disruptive behavior that interferes with teaching or affects the learning of others may result in failing this course. If you have concerns about disruptive behavior or would like to talk about the classroom environment, please set up a time to meet with me. Refer to [UWG Policies](#) for additional information.

UWG Cares

UWG faculty and staff strive to create a supportive and successful learning environment for every student. However, we know that college can sometimes be a stressful experience. To assist students during times of stress or uncertainty, UWG provides a variety of free campus resources. If you or someone you know need help, visit [UWG Cares](#) and use the link provided to contact the UWG professional staff, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Information can be submitted anonymously if needed. [UWG Cares](#) can also be used to report COVID-19 cases and related concerns. The number for the [UWG Counseling Center](#) (with free counseling) is 678-839-6428. The national suicide prevention lifeline is 1-800-273-8255. Please reach out to them if you or someone you know needs assistance.

CourseDen

UWG's online course system (CourseDen) is required in this course. CourseDen provides links to readings, assignments, course resources, and instructional support. For assistance with CourseDen or other technology issues, visit [UWG Online](#).

UWG Honor Code & Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in this course may result in failure of a specific assignment or failure of the course, depending on the severity of the offense. Please see the Honor Code section below under Institutional Policies for additional information.

Additional Academic Policies and Support Related to this Course

Please review [this document](#) to familiarize yourself with additional UWG academic policies that apply to this course as well as academic support services that are available (and free) for you to use.

Academic Policies:

[Policies and Support for Online Courses](#)

[Credit Hour Policy](#)

[Honor Code](#)

[Email Policy](#)

[Other Policies](#)

Academic Support for Students:

[Center for Academic Success](#)

[University Writing Center](#)

[Accessibility Services & Accommodations](#)

Medical & Mental Health Support for Students:

[UWG Cares](#) (to report any incident or concern, including COVID-19)

[UWG Health Services](#)

[University Counseling Center](#)

Institutional Policies

Academic Support

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu.

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu.

Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online \(https://uwgonline.westga.edu/\)](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide \(http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php\)](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares \(http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/\)](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) site. [Online counseling \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook \(https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php).

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: [http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information#\(http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information\)](http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information#(http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information))

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: [https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php\(https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php(https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php))

Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGCares](#).

ELL Resources

If you are a student having difficulty with English language skills, and / or U.S. culture is not your home culture, specialized resources are available to help you succeed. Please visit the [E.L.L. resource page](#) for more information.

COVID-19

Proctored Exams/Online Instruction: Students should be aware and plan ahead for the possibility of having to complete all courses and/or exams online or in a proctored environment. This means talking with your instructors about what minimum technical requirements (software and hardware) will be required should your class move online or a student's personal needs dictate. This also includes making plans for internet access at whatever location participation may occur.

Virtual or in-person proctored exams, if your instructor should require them, may result in an additional cost to the student. Please discuss these details with your instructor or see the information provided here.

Face Coverings: Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia institutions, including the University of West Georgia, will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

Student FAQs: For more information about UWG COVID-19 guidance for students visit the [Student FAQ webpage\(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php).

Additional Items
