

Department:Continuing Studies

Course number: GS 295W

Course title: Integrating General Studies

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Dr. Susan Nesbitt

Catalog Copy: Integrating General Studies (295W)

Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800. With a change in topic, may be repeated for credit.

Integrates the field of general and interdisciplinary studies. Traces emergence of interdisciplinary studies and compares different academic disciplines. Future of interdisciplinary studies is assessed.

Course Information: -Students will develop an understanding of the interconnection between general and interdisciplinary studies. Through practical examples, it will be demonstrated how certain academic areas of investigation are illuminated by interdisciplinary study. Each student will be taught to understand the complexity of academic investigation through appreciation of interdisciplinary investigation. The course is divided into six modules with 2-5 page written assignments for each module, a mid-semester essay, and a fifteen page revised term paper that serves as the course final. Readings will be on general studies, interdisciplinary studies, and from different academic disciplines. There will be about 100 pages of text reading per week. Topics covered include, the nature of general studies, the history and philosophy of interdisciplinary studies, and biology, social sciences and the humanities as they related to the selected area of investigation.

W Criteria : -1. The writing in the course will require students to gather, organize and evaluate seven assignments of issues connected to general studies and interdisciplinary studies. The assignment questions will directly address the central issues in the interdisciplinary study of the course topic, and will require the student to understand the important concepts of the course. The student will need to review the scholarly literature on the topic, determine which materials are most pertinent to the subject, and incorporate scholarship in the writing. There will be six short papers of 2-4 pages, and a 15-page term paper. The writing elements of this course will count for 50% of the student's course grade. The course syllabus will inform students that they must pass the "W" component of the course in order to pass the course.

2. The modes of writing instruction in the class will be written critiques of writing assignments, individual discussions and formal writing instruction. Writing instructions will be provided at the beginning of the class, in a class handout with the writing guidelines listed in the St. Martin's Handbook.

3. The instructor will critique each writing assignment, provide written comments, suggestions for improvement, and provide opportunity for revision and resubmission. Each written submission will be evaluated for content, structure, coherency, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and style. The instructor

will have meetings with students to review their written work. As this is an online class, these meeting will either be on the phone or in person, where possible. The instructor will critique each writing assignment. After the student-faculty meeting the student will revise and resubmit the assignment. For the term paper the student will submit a written draft of the paper for review, revision and resubmission. The shorter assignments are part of each module in the class and will help prepare the student for the longer term paper.

Role of Grad Students: -No applicable