IDS 300W: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Theory and Concepts

Syllabus

Instructor: Virginia Tucker
Office: BAL5034, PHEC 2230
Phone: 757-683-4035
Email: vmtucker@odu.edu
Meeting: Fridays 7:10-9:50

Course Description and Objectives: IDS300W is a writing intensive, hybrid course that critically examines issues related to interdisciplinary perspectives, including the study of differences and similarities among academic disciplines. This includes the application of an interdisciplinary approach to a specific topic of study.

Course Goals and Objectives:

• Examine the interdisciplinary nature of work
• Examine and explore the relationship between critical thinking and interdisciplinary learning
• Examine and explore the world of work from an interdisciplinary perspective
• Develop the ability to effectively use critical thinking skills in dealing with workplace issues
• Develop the ability to use an interdisciplinary approach to study problems related to the workplace
• Develop effective skills in the use of online discussion and electronic assignment submission
• Improve writing skills

Texts and Materials:

Additional readings available on Blackboard

Assignments and Grades:

• Papers 1 & 2 = 20% each
• Reading responses/replies = 15%
• Participation in online and face to face discussions = 15%
• Midterm & Final = 15% each

POLICIES:

Attendance: You must prepare for, attend, and participate in all scheduled class sessions. In-class assignments may be emailed to me before the end of class. For on-site meetings, everyone must be seated on camera or may be called upon to verbally confirm attendance. Leaving class before its conclusion is considered an absence. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet at your site (if one is not available you must request one at your site). Video streamers must check in. It is a violation of the honor code to indicate attendance on the sheet and then leave before class concludes. For online meetings, merely logging on does not mean you are in attendance—participation in the discussion will be necessary to be considered as in attendance.
**Preparedness and Participation:** Your preparedness and participation will affect your grade, and failure to hand in a major assignment constitutes failure of the course. You are required to have access to the course texts by the end of the first week of class, and will be responsible for any assignments that require the texts. Turn off cell phones and other electronic communication devices before entering classroom. I reserve the right to ask a student to leave the class either temporarily or permanently if the student does not conduct himself/herself in a mature and professional manner. This includes talking or surfing the web during lecture, checking your electronic devices, arriving late or leaving early.

**Blackboard Reading Responses:** Reading responses will be due every two weeks and will provide thoughtful and substantive comparative analysis of readings from the Gig book. For example, you might discuss the intersections of teachers, entertainers, and salespersons using examples from the book. In contrast, you might discuss how examples from the book differ from one another despite your previous conceptions about those jobs. Responses are graded on depth, originality, use of course materials, and how well they elicit further discussion from peers. There will be 5 responses in total, with a value of 20 points each. Responses are not graded until the semester’s conclusion. There will be no reminders for post due dates, and you will be unable to make posts to dated threads. It is possible to get extra credit by replying to peer’s responses, but a maximum of 20 points can be earned through extra credit for the semester and the grade total cannot exceed 100 points.

**Adobe Connect Discussions:** Five class meetings will be held in the Adobe Connect classroom (https://connect.odu.edu/ids300/) where we are better able to conduct lively discussions with everyone’s participation. Logging in requires no passwords or downloads, but you must log in using your name so you can be considered as in attendance. All sessions are recorded and can be reviewed later at your request. Participation in discussions accounts for 20% of your course grade, so merely logging in and not participating will impact your final grade in this course. If you make no effort to participate and fail to respond when addressed, then you will be considered absent.

**Peer Review:** Review by educated peer readers is an essential part of the writing process and an inevitable part of both professional and creative writing. Being published in any form, whether in an academic journal or an intra-office report, requires that you to be open to review and criticism as well as be able to provide such review. If you fail to submit a timely draft to your group it will affect your final grade.

**Plagiarism:** Writers who use the words or ideas of others are obligated to give credit through proper acknowledgment and documentation. Failure to give credit is plagiarism, a violation of the ODU Honor Code that can lead to expulsion from the University. If the quality of your in-class and out-of-class writing varies dramatically, I reserve the right to ask you to write under supervision. You are also not permitted to change your paper topic at the last minute, submit another’s work as your own, or submit work that you have previously submitted for evaluation in another class. Finally, any source listed in the References page must actually be cited in the text of the document. **Papers without References pages will be returned with a failing grade.**

**Essays:** Essays should follow standard APA guidelines. Essays should be in a 12 pt. serif font with 1 inch margins, double spaced, include page numbers, and have a running head and abstract. For your own protection, keep copies of submitted work. Papers are due by midnight on the due date, and late work will not be accepted for any reason. Papers sent by email will not be accepted.

**Disability Services:** If you have special needs because of a documented disability, or if you have emergency medical information to share, please notify me during the first week of class so we may discuss the accommodation process.
Drop Policy: Please check the University Catalog for official policy. It is summarized for you here: Prior to the start of and during the first six days of the semester, a student may drop a course at the Registration Office without the signature of the instructor and no grade will be assigned. After the first six days, a student may withdraw from a course through the end of the eighth week of a regular semester, and a grade of W will be assigned. After the eighth week, withdrawal is not permitted. In cases of illness or severe hardship, a written petition to withdraw must be submitted no later than the last day of class. Students who stop attending class without withdrawing will receive a grade of WF unless the student’s performance has been as F, in which case a grade of F will be assigned.

Weekly Schedule
(This schedule is tentative, and I reserve the right to alter it to fit the needs of the class and to assign work that may currently not be detailed on the syllabus. Additional readings will be made available on the Blackboard course site.)

8/30 Class meets at site: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies / subjects; establish goals; introduction to Connect; submit diagnostic writing prompt; HW for tonight: read Ciulla chapters 1 & 2 & Definition of Interdisciplinarity on Blackboard

9/6 Class meets online: Meet in Adobe Connect (https://connect.odu.edu/ids300/). RR1 due today; HW for tonight: read Ciulla chapter 3, “Offbeat Majors” and Szostak on Blackboard

9/13 Class meets at site: Discuss paper 1; multi-disciplinary VS interdisciplinary. HW for tonight: read Ciulla chapter 4 & Lattuca on Blackboard

9/20 Class meets online: Meet in Adobe Connect (https://connect.odu.edu/ids300/). RR2 due today; HW for tonight: read Ciulla chapter 5 & McComiskey on Blackboard Canceled

9/27 Online assignment, no meeting: Groups meet during class for peer reviews of paper 1, due tonight & optional conferences in Connect; HW for tonight: read Ciulla chapters 6 & 7 & Klein on Blackboard

10/4 Class meets at site: IDS across the disciplines; discuss midterm & paper 2. Paper 1 due to Blackboard assignments by midnight; HW for tonight: read Ciulla chapter 8

10/11 Class meets online: Meet in Adobe Connect (https://connect.odu.edu/ids300/). RR 3 due today; HW for tonight: read Ciulla chapter 9 & Carroll on Blackboard

10/18 Online assignment, no meeting: Midterm on Blackboard

10/25 Class meets at site: Discuss idea of a university, writing across the curriculum (come prepared to share your paper 2 topic)

11/1 Online assignment, no meeting: Groups meet during class for peer reviews of paper 2; Peer group responses due tonight for Interdisciplinary Paper; HW for tonight: read Ciulla chapter 11 and “Human Work” on Blackboard

11/8 Class meets at site: Work in the modern era. HW for tonight: read Ciulla chapter 10

11/15 Class meets online: Meet in Adobe Connect Connect (https://connect.odu.edu/ids300/); Integrative thinking and synthesis in IDS. RR4 due today; HW for tonight: read Ciulla chapter 12
11/22 Online assignment, no meeting: Interdisciplinary Paper due to Blackboard assignments page. Optional conferences in Connect—sign up for a time on Blackboard discussion board.

11/29: No class; Fall Break

12/6 Class meets online: Exam prep-plan to contribute at least 2 major course concepts as we build an exam study guide together; RR5 due today.

Final Exam TBA

Interdisciplinary Paper Ideas

- Research an historical issue related to work or a specific workplace and what methods were used to resolve it
- Perform a case study of an entry level worker in a selected occupation. This could include job description; qualifications for the job; analysis of the job; typical working week
- Develop a survey on a work-related issue and present the findings
- Perform a literature analysis of children’s books about work across a single or various decades
- Analyze an employer-designated work problem. Assess the problem, develop solutions and present recommendations
- Research career pathways within a particular enterprise or industry, and the associated education, training and experience required. Examine the variety of entry and exit points and identify both vertical and horizontal career paths from entry level to managerial level. Include diagrams and flowcharts in the research report
- Conduct a film analysis of Modern Life in comparison with the sitcom All in the Family
- Perform a visual analysis of the Dilbert cartoons in relation to the Kroning method used by Pacific Bell