

**Course Code & No. - Section:** INTD 250  
**Course Title (Credits):** Principles of Interdisciplinary Studies (3)  
**Term & Year:** Fall 2017  
**Course Ref. No. (CRN):** 80290

**Instructor:** Katie Zanto  
**Phone(s):** X 7529  
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**Office:** Prim Library rm. 205  
**Office Hours:** T, W, TH by appointment or drop in. Office hours posted  
**Class Meeting Time:** T/TH 10:00- 11:15  
**Location:** PL 214

**Prerequisites:** Declared Major in INTD, Sophomore/ Junior on INTD track  
**Corequisites:** None

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to concepts and applications of interdisciplinary studies. Through self-exploration, research, and discussion, it will challenge students to see beyond the traditional compartmentalization of ideas and theory. Students will examine contemporary issues through the lens of multiple disciplines in order to create the groundwork for the development of their Interdisciplinary Studies majors.

**Student Outcomes:** Students will be able to:

- Identify and articulate their intellectual influences and commitments. (Assignments: Intellectual Autobiography; Service Brainstorm, Portfolio Reflection)
- Explain the specifics of disciplines in terms of concepts, methods, resources, academic skills and influential thinkers. (Assignments: Disciplinary Presentations; Word Symposium, Midterm Interview Project, Disciplinary Reflections)
- Approach complex problems and concepts from multiple disciplinary perspectives and to begin to integrate perspectives into interdisciplinary solutions. (Assignments: Word Symposium; Independent Research Paper)

**Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes:** Written assignments, interviews, class discussion and participation, research projects, presentations, group projects, South Fork of the American field trip (spring only), self-reflection, portfolio, quizzes and exams.

**Instructional Strategies:** Class will involve a range of instructional strategies including, lecture, guest visits, seminar discussion, group projects, field trips, and student presentations. As the course progresses, students will be more and more responsible for their own learning and application to individual interdisciplinary study plans.

**Required Texts and Materials:**

- 3 ring portfolio binder with dividers
- Class handouts.
- Lap-top computer
- Recommended- The Little Brown Compact Handbook

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend every class and to show respect to peers and instructor by arriving on time for class. This seminar style class is largely based on attendance, participation and student presentations. Directions and workshops in class are difficult or impossible to make up. If a student misses a class due to illness or other, the work due on that day as well as the material presented are the student's responsibility. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the instructor to discuss the missed material. A large part of the grading system will be based on attendance and participation,

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so if a student misses classes and material, his/her grade will drop. A student can miss two classes due to personal reasons but at three absences, participation grade drops to a 75%, and loses 10 % points each absence after regardless of reason. Do not miss class!

### **Grading Policy:**

Grades are based on the accumulation of points during the semester in approximately the following way.

- 200 points attendance and participation including in class assignments, reflections and research process
- 100 points intellectual autobiography
- 100 points disciplinary presentation
- 100 points word symposium
- 50 points service learning brainstorm
- 150 points midterm interview project
- 200 points research paper & presentation
- 100 points final portfolio (oral and written)

### **Assignments:**

This class is shaped around seven key assignments and activities. They range from personal writing, to researching a discipline, to a visual representation project, to participation in and reflection on a field trip, to an interview assignment, to an interdisciplinary research project and presentation and, finally, to a portfolio. Some of these assignments are unusual; they are meant to push you outside of your comfort limits. Please take the opportunity to take risks through these assignments. Put effort into understanding the concepts and skills required and you may be surprised by which assignments inspire you the most. I will be available outside of class time during office hours to meet with you. Guest students may present their work throughout the semester.

### **Prim Library Resources:**

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your research in your fields and for your projects. In particular, the interdisciplinary research paper will require extensive use of EBSCO and incorporation of multiple peer reviewed papers.

Prim Library Resources include, but are not limited to:

1. Films
2. Reference materials (for use inside Prim Library):
3. Electronic databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles): EBSCO
4. Hardcopy periodicals: Prim Library has current subscriptions for many journals. Please check for journals in your discipline and content areas.
5. Books (can be checked out): a search the Prim Library Catalog using key words related to your content needs
6. Lib Guides: <http://Libguides.sierranevada.edu> These web pages contain instructions about how to use resources available at Prim Library, how to evaluate the appropriateness of information from the Internet for a research paper, how to cite sources, and other topics related to finding and using information.

**Fall 2016** - LOGIN information for SNC Prim Library Electronic Databases:

When you need to access SNC's licensed database content from off campus, you will need the following information:

- Students:** Use your first initial and your last name as the username and your 9 digit student ID number as the password.

**If you have questions or problems, please contact the library at [library@sierranevada.edu](mailto:library@sierranevada.edu).**

**QUESTIONS? 775-881-7511 Library – [library@sierranevada.edu](mailto:library@sierranevada.edu)**

### **Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism**

#### **The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the

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SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

### **Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code**

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

### **ADA Accommodations**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu) or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

### **The SNC Email System**

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

### **The College Mission Statement:**

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

### **The College Core Themes:**

Liberal Arts, Professional Preparedness, Entrepreneurial Thinking, Sustainability

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**Tentative Course Schedule:** Note: This schedule provides a general plan for this course. Alterations may be necessary and students will be informed when changes in assignments are made. Students are responsible for the material covered and announcements made during all classes.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Plan</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
8/22 Tuesday	Introductions Define Interdisciplinary- Introduce Intellectual Autobiography Questions and Issues that matter Discuss midterm interview project Discuss binder	-
8/24 Thursday	Six word memoir Examples of Intellectual Autobiographies Library overview- Group activity	Read Mary Catherine Bateson <b>Due:</b> Draft- timeline of intellectual history
8/29 Tuesday	Intellectual Autobiography roundtable Disciplines- Guest visit- Rosie Hackett- Director of Outdoor Adventure Leadership Workshop Discipline Introduce assignment: research groups in the Disciplines	<b>Due: Intellectual Autobiography</b> -Turn it in class typed, double spaced , 12 pt font
8/31 Thursday	Guest visit- Nick Babin- Director of Sustainability Program Discuss your article	Library assignment- Find a journal/ periodicals and a text related to one or both of your disciplines. Post works cited on Moodle Bring the journal to class and come prepared to discuss at least one article
9/5 Tuesday	Guest visitor: Stacy Taylor- Finance and Economics Program Chair - Discuss use of the journal and articles Workshop Discipline research	Research your discipline!
9/7 Thursday	Guest visitors: Ann Marie Brown- Director of New Media Journalism Program Chris Lanier- Digital Arts and Art Program	<b>Due:</b> Revision of Intellectual Autobiography (Turn it in with previous drafts) And (extra credit) a short abstract describing yourself with a photo
9/12 Tuesday	Review guidelines of discipline report and presentation Workshop discipline presentations in groups	Bring all research on your disciplines <b>Due: Draft Discipline Report</b>

9/14 Thursday	<b>Student Discipline Presentations</b>	<b>Due: Student Discipline Reports and group presentation</b>
9/19 Tuesday	What is Interdisciplinary? Integrative Learning/ Thinking Eric Berlow, Biomimicry Student articles Discussion Reminder upcoming interview project	<b>Read an article in your scholarly journal related to your interests/ your major. Come ready to discuss</b>
9/21 Thursday	Discuss student examples – Interdisciplinary/ Integrative Introduce Word Symposium Project- Research the word in your two Disciplines	Find Interdisciplinary Example (article, video) <b>Be prepared to present in class</b>
9/26 Tuesday	Past Student Examples ARC presentations: “Literacy”  Word Symposium workshop	<b>Research</b> “Identity”, “Risk”, “Story” in your disciplines
9/28 Thursday	Word Symposium workshop	Research <b>Due:</b> works cited- minimum 3 sources for each discipline.
10/3 Tuesday	<b>Word Symposium Presentations Gallery Walk</b>	Word Symposium Project Prepare <b>Due:</b> Final Word project Turn in abstract, works cited and all material from the presentation
10/5 Thursday	Interview Project Guidelines Interview techniques and outreach strategies Identify leads, brainstorm questions	
10/10 Tuesday	Interview Project Workshop	<b>Make Contact-</b> email, phone etc Conduct Interview
10/12 Thursday	Service Learning Presentation and Assignment	Conduct Interview
10/17 Tuesday	Workshop and Midterm checkin Looking at the rest of the course	Transcribe and Reflect
10/19 Thursday	<b>Interview Presentations</b> Midterm check in Review rest of semester	<b>Due:</b> Midterm Interview Project <b>Due presentation and paper report</b>

10 10/24 Tuesday	Service Brainstorm Workshop	
10/26 Thursday	Research Project <i>What are you really interested in exploring?</i>	<b>Due: Service Brainstorm</b>
11 10/31 Tuesday	Hand out research packet requirements. Interdisciplinary Research examples: (student example)	Brainstorm Interdisciplinary Research Topics. <i>What are you really interested in exploring?</i>
11/2 Thursday	Peer review of research proposals  Topic narrowing and discipline reflections Research databases review Works Cited/ Bibliography review	<b>Due: Research Proposal (bring in paper to class)</b> - Identifies at least 2-3 clear disciplinary perspectives  Research and take notes on research topic  Academic Plan/ Advising conferences outside of class
12 11/7 Tuesday	Presentation sign-ups Research Grid Example Student example:	<b>Research and Read!</b>  Academic Plan/ Advising conferences outside of class
11/9 Thursday	Student conferences and workshop Workshop, peer editing, thesis breakdown Review Presentation Guidelines	<b>research and write</b> <b>Due: Draft Research Grid</b> - at least 4 good sources representing at least 2 different disciplines. (see example) Academic Plan conferences outside of class
13 11/14 Tuesday	Workshop on interdisciplinary research-	<b>Due: Research Grid (8 good sources)</b> <b>research and write</b>
11/16 Thursday	Student Conferences Workshop	<b>Research and write</b>
11/20-11/24	Thanksgiving Break	<b>Research and write</b>
11/28 Tuesday	Research Presentations (3) Introduce Portfolio	<b>Research and write</b>
11/30 Thursday	Research Presentations (4)	<b>Due: Draft 1 of Research paper Note*</b> <i>Service Learning Plans and Proposals are due on Thursday 12/1/!</i>

12/5 Tuesday	Research Presentations (4)	<b>research and write</b>
12/7 Thursday	Research Presentations (2) Research process and INTD reflection Class evaluation	<b>Due: Research Paper Including initial research proposal, grid, draft and final paper on top.</b>
12/11	Reading day	Portfolio assignment revisions
Exams 12/12-12/15		<b>Due:</b> Assembled Portfolio with all revisions and in class writing

### **Ideas for Interdisciplinary Research Papers:**

You can start brainstorming early in the semester. Each topic must be studied through two or more disciplinary lenses. **This requires both a “narrowing” and a “broadening” of your research topics.**

Here are few example ones from past students:

#### **Student topic examples:**

- *A study of the obesity problem in the United States (specifically youth) using research in the fields of Psychology, Sociology and Outdoor Adventure Education.*
- *A Sociological, Psychological and Ecological Study of Ecovillages*
- *An analysis of sustainable construction issues using research from the fields of Business / ENTP, Architecture and Green Building Technology.*
- *Using Business, Education and Sustainable Agriculture to research and address Central Valley Water Shortage issues.*
- *An analysis of Geo-engineering (climate engineering) using Law and Policy, Environmental Studies, Sociology, and Education*
- *A study of growing rates of autism and the need for effective educational environments for autistic children using research in the fields of Sociology, Psychology, Music theory and Education.*
- *An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of Special Education Inclusion Programs using research in the fields of Psychology and Education.*
- *A study of homelessness through the lens of psychological and sociological research*

### **For your Reference – Key Dates on the SNC Academic Calendar**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
Semester Begins (ADCP)	Aug 22, 2016
Labor Day (College closed)	Sept 5, 2016
Midterm grades filed with Registrar	Oct 19, 2016
Nevada Day (College closed)	Oct 28, 2016
Advising begins for Spring term 2016	Oct 31- Nov 10, 2016
Last day to change grade status or withdraw from a full term course without academic penalty	Oct 31, 2016
Veteran's Day (College closed)	Nov 11, 2016
Registration for returning students for Fall term	Nov 15-17, 2016
Thanksgiving break	Nov 21- Nov 25, 2016
Prepare for Finals/No Scheduled Class	Dec 12, 2016
Final exam week	Dec 13-17, 2016
Final Grades filed with registrar	Dec 21, 2016

