Course Description: LBAS 3198 is the capstone course for all students pursuing the BA in Liberal Studies degree. In order to enter this program, all students were required to write an essay defining why they chose to pursue a degree in Liberal Studies, a “definition” of the program that they planned to create, and how that program would be beneficial to future endeavors.

During this course students will demonstrate the ability to articulate the value and purpose of interdisciplinary study, prepare a final project that will incorporate the knowledge gained over the course of your studies, and successfully complete an oral examination based on your writing project.

PLOs and SLOs: Since this course is required of all students completing the BA in Liberal Studies, the following Program Learning Outcomes will be achieved:

1) Students will demonstrate an ability to articulate the goals and objectives of interdisciplinary study both orally and in writing.
2) Students will demonstrate an understanding of interdisciplinary research, critical thinking, integration of fields of study, and basic research and writing skills.
3) Students will evaluate the effectiveness of interdisciplinary learning as a means of professional and intellectual preparation.

Required Materials:
-- Assigned readings available in D2L.
-- Research materials assigned by capstone paper committee

Course Requirements:
1) Students will complete a series of readings that focus on the value of interdisciplinary learning.
2) Students will write an essay that articulates the goals and objectives of interdisciplinary study.
3) Students will make an oral presentation to a faculty panel demonstrating the ability to articulate goals and objectives of interdisciplinary study.
4) Students will write an essay evaluating the effectiveness of interdisciplinary learning in preparing them professionally and as members of a global society.
5) Students enrolled in the capstone will develop a paper of presentation length that is interdisciplinary in nature. This paper will incorporate all three areas of study into a coherent of a chosen topic.
Course Policies:

Attendance and Late Work:
All deadlines for work must be followed. As much of our early writing will prepare you for the development for your research paper, feedback will be necessary. Also, as other faculty will be giving time to read your portfolio and attend your oral defense, deadlines will be enforced.

Assignments and grading:

Class meetings: 5% of grade. You are expected to meet with your class per calendar dates and to have completed all assigned readings, if applicable. This will be the basis of discussion.

Essay One: 15% of grade - 4-5 pages in length. The purpose of this essay will be to explore the meaning of an interdisciplinary degree. This essay will work to answer such questions as: What is an interdisciplinary education? Why is it a valuable degree in the academic community? What value does the degree have outside the academic community? For this essay, you will want to share ideas from your readings and from our class discussion.

Essay Two: 10% of grade – 1-2 pages in length. This second essay will be an analytical essay of your own degree and why you believe it is valuable. In this essay, you will want to offer a clear definition of your degree, explain why you chose the design that you did, and, finally, explain how you believe that this degree has made you most prepared for your professional future.

Research proposal: 10% You will turn in a detailed form in consultation with your primary mentor. This is the most critical assignment of the first four weeks.

Research progress rubrics: 10% throughout the semester faculty mentors will be asked to complete rubrics in D2L/Brightspace regarding your progress. Failure to meet expectations may result in a F in course or request to drop and retake the class.

Research essay: 50% of grade - This will be a research paper and, in most cases, be argumentatively driven. The goal here will be to expand upon the topic (question) that proposed earlier in the semester. For this project, you will choose three faculty members who will become committee members. One of these individuals will chair your project. With the help and guidance of this individual and the other members of your committee, you will choose your topic and complete your paper. Upon completion, you will deliver an oral presentation of this project to the faculty in the program. During your presentation, the committee members present will engage you in a conversation about your argument, the different areas of study employed, and the conclusions that you reach. You will be expected to make use of outside resources. When writing your essay, you
are to display correct citation for any and all sources that are used.

**Academic Integrity (4.1)**

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Witheld Grades:**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated
course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.”
For the complete policy, http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp

**Students with Disabilities:**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices.

**CREDIT HOUR JUSTIFICATION:** Typically meets once each week (Monday) in 150-minute segments for 15 weeks. Students have significant reading assignments, two critical response essays, and produce a 12-15-page capstone research project with oral defense. These activities average a minimum of 6 hours of work per week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

**Mental Health and Wellness**
SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
SFA Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counseling
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor
936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/human/services/139.asp Human Services, Room 202
936.468.1041

**Crisis Resources:**
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
COURSE CALENDAR

Aug 31 – Introduction to class (CLASS MEETS – 4pm)

Sept 5 – list of committee members is due in Dropbox by 11pm (CLASS MEETS – 4pm)

Sept 7 - Discussion of reading packet 1 – Repko on Brightspace D2L (CLASS MEETS-4:00 pm)

Sept 14 – No class, Research proposal due by 11pm

Sept 21 – Discussion of reading packet 2 – Chronicle readings on Brightspace D2L (CLASS MEETS—4:00 pm)

Sept 28 – No class, Essay #1–essay due in Brightspace/D2L by 11pm.

*No group class meetings from here on. You will be expected to work with your primary mentor in particular on your project and receive satisfactory marks on rubrics they submit periodically.

Oct 19 – (CLASS MEETS—4:00 pm)

Thursday, Nov 16 – Final papers due in Dropbox by 11pm.

Presentation meetings will be arranged for Thursday and Friday of dead week, December 7 and 8.

Dec 14—Essay #2 due in Dropbox at 11pm.