LBAS 3198.642 – Advanced Liberal Studies – Spring 2024

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Office Hours: by appointment

Department: Division of Multidisciplinary Programs
Class meeting time and place: Zoom Tuesdays 6:00-6:50 pm

Course Description: LBAS 3198 is the capstone course for all students pursuing the BA in Liberal Studies degree.

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 their studies, and successfully complete an oral examination based on a 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 as assigned for individual projects.

Course Requirements:

1) Students will evaluate a series of readings and videos that focus on the value of interdisciplinary learning.

2) Students will become familiar with research and writing tools, i.e. AI, in preparing them professionally and as members of a global society.

3) Students will develop a paper of presentation length that is interdisciplinary in nature. This paper will incorporate at least two of the three areas of study on individual degree plans into a coherent analysis of a chosen topic.

Attendance and Late Work:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings via ZOOM. A link to the ZOOM room for the course will be posted in D2L. Since there are only a few assignments in this course, please adhere to posted deadlines to ensure appropriate time for meaningful feedback.
Assignments and grading:

Attendance/Participation: 10% of grade.

AI Assignment: 10% of grade - 4-5 pages in length. The purpose of this essay will be to explore the value of interdisciplinary work using generative AI.

Proposal: 10% of grade – 2-4 page outline of your proposed research project. Must include research question, potential sources of information, and rationale for pursuing the topic.

Peer Reviews: 10% of grade. You will provide honest and constructive feedback to each of the members of the course.

Annotated Bibliography: 10% of grade. A list of research materials in proper citation style (APA, MLA, or Turabian) with brief notes as to relevance.

Research project: 50% of grade – This will consist of a presentation-length (typically 12-15 pages) paper supplemented by audio or visual elements, as appropriate. Upon completion, you will deliver an oral presentation of this project to faculty and colleagues in the program and participate in a critical defense of the work before a faculty committee chosen in consultation with the course instructor.

Institutional Absences (HOP 04-110)

An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.

Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.
More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences.

**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.

**Withheld 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 (Tuesday) in 60-minute segments for 15 weeks. Students have significant reading assignments, various written assignments, and 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/counselingservices
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor
936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservces/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

January 23  Introduction to class

January 30  Discussion—Interdisciplinarity

February 6  Epistemology—How do we Know what we Know?
Faculty advisor list uploaded to Dropbox by 5:00 p.m.

February 13  Research skills and AI tools

February 20  Academic writing and editing
AI assignments due in Dropbox by 5:00 p.m.

February 27  No Class—project proposals, with preliminary bibliographies, due in D2L before 11:00 p.m.

March 5  No Class
Faculty advisor(s) submit progress reports in D2L

SPRING BREAK

March 19  Peer discussion of proposals
Peer reviews due in Dropbox by 11:00 p.m.

March 26  Class topic TBD
Updated and annotated bibliographies due in Dropbox before 11:00 p.m.

April 2  No Class
Individual progress meetings scheduled April 1-5

April 9  No Class

April 16  Class topic TBDc

April 23--Project/paper drafts due in Dropbox by 11:00 p.m.

Presentation meetings will be arranged for dead week, April 29-May 3.

May 10—Final/revised drafts due in Dropbox by 11:00 p.m.