<u>**Instructor**</u>: Dr. Brad Klypchak
      Office: 221 Talbot Hall
      Email: Brad.Klypchak@etamu.edu
      Office Hours: MW 12:30 - 3:00 Thurs 3:00 – 5:00 or by appointment
         (Zoom meetings welcomed)

<u>**Course Description**</u>: An introduction to interdisciplinary study and the Liberal Studies major. Through readings in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences, students will develop an appreciation and understanding of disciplinary perspectives. Emphasis on learning how to conduct efficient and effective information searches. Students will develop an Individual Education Plan.

<u>**Course Objectives**</u>:
1. to demonstrate and communicate an understanding of the core concepts of interdisciplinary scholarship and its theoretical underpinnings through a variety of written and discussion-based activities
2. to encounter and engage in readings from a variety of disciplines as a means for generating synthesis, analysis and communication of critical thought
3. to demonstrate the academic skill of researching a topic from multiple disciplinary fields through creating an annotative bibliography
4. to apply the principles of interdisciplinary scholarship by reflectively and informatively contributing to dialogues on a variety of topics
5. to construct a personalized plan of study informed by interdisciplinary academic principles

<u>**Evaluation**</u>:

Individual Education Plan Project:	10%
Exams:	20%
Annotations:	15%
Research Proposal Draft:	10%
Peer Review Critiques	5%
Revised Research Proposal Draft:	15%
Reflective Review	10%
Participation and Engagement:	15%

<u>**Grading System**</u>:
      A (exceptional) = 100 - 90%   B (good) = 89 - 80%   C (average) = 79 - 70%
           D (minimally sufficient) = 69 - 60%   F (failure) = <60%

Though I am a believer in the philosophies of ungradedness, some versions of grading still exist. That stated, I am also a believer in the intrinsic pursuit of knowledge and discovery. If you join in that pursuit, there should be no worries or concerns of final grades. In nearly all grading instances, I start from a mindset that one begins at middle "C" (75%), and one proves their relative ability to shift above, shift below, or remain at that mark with their work.

<u>**Brief Assignment Explanations:**</u>

Individual Educational Plan Project: One's collegiate experience should be designed with purpose and intention. The Individual Educational Plan requires students to develop a course of study in which one establishes a mission statement and develops a rationale for their following coursework in relation to that mission.

Exams: During weeks 6, 10, and finals week, a timed examination will be given to assess mastery of the course's core concepts. All topics build upon one another. As a result, the exam will be cumulative in nature. Exams will include short answer and essay-based questions and will consist of questions asking students to demonstrate their mastery of the course material through the critical thinking skills of analysis, reflection, evaluation, synthesis, and application.

Annotations: Students will utilize online databases for locating source material on a topic which pertains to his/her particular interest. By completing an annotated bibliography of resources from diverse areas of scholarship, the student will engage with academic research while also establishing a scholarly foundation informing their eventual Research Proposal Project.

Research Proposal Project: Students will devise and propose a research topic and the ways in which that topic would be explored interdisciplinarily. An initial first draft of the Research Proposal will be distributed amongst the course community for peer review. Feedback derived from peer reviews will then inform a revised final draft.

Peer Review Critiques: One will provide feedback to the work of one's colleagues. The relative degree of effort and engagement contributed to the critiques offered will be assessed.

Reflective Review: Given the nature of an introductory course, there should likely be discovery and development of new considerations of the topic matter at hand. Here, the student is to reflect on the experiences of the term and the ways in which liberal studies functions as an academic practice and as a scholarly pursuit.

Participation and Engagement: Whether in the classroom or online, students are expected to dialogue in a way that provokes, clarifies, challenges, and enlightens the course community. In these communications, the concepts of a liberal studies approach to higher education will be practiced and varying interpretations, particularly in relation to the course readings, will be shared.

Additional considerations of a student's relative level of engagement and academic integrity will also be made across all aspects of the course including but not limited to completion and quality of tasks and assignments, communications, following instructions and guidelines, and accessing materials.

Readings
All readings will be distributed via our online course shell.

All readings are to be completed during the respective week they are assigned, and their material will be needed on exams. On occasion, students may be asked to complete additional readings beyond those listed on the syllabus. Should this be the case, sufficient time and access to such readings will be provided.

Academic Dishonesty

All coursework is to be an original work by the student and created specifically for fulfilling the requirements for this course. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another's work or ideas as one's own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. It is the student's responsibility to:

1. research and write their own papers
2. give proper credit through documentation when using words or ideas of others
3. rely on their own knowledge when taking tests
4. refuse to give another student the opportunity to be dishonest

Any act of academic dishonesty may result in the automatic failure of the course and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the university.

"Attendance" policy, instructor's rights and expectations:

All courses demand active participation and regular attendance. It is imperative that the student do all assigned work in a timely fashion. In particular, the benefits from discussion specifically depend on each student's respective preparation and distinctive contribution. Failure to do so hurts not only the individual student, but the collective community as a whole.

All assignments are devised for the explicit purpose of offering educational benefit, be that academic growth, hands-on experience, development and display of critical thought, or expression of our academic selves. Coursework is to be completed as assigned and is to be turned in via the D2L Brightspace dropbox no later than the formal due date. Any work turned in after due dates may incur a penalty respective of its relative degree of tardiness (to a point of no credit whatsoever); considerable flexibility in applying this will be enacted. Failing to complete assignments not only inhibits the immediate learning process but, again, ultimately hurts the overall learning community as discussion of the process and its results can prove insightful as well.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements
LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements
LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm
Zoom Video Conferencing Tool
https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.
Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support
If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:
https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy
The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.
http://www.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx
Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

ETAMU Attendance
For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx
http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity
Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:
Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03
Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form
http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf
http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

AI Use Policy
East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructor's guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice
East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement
Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.
For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.
Web url:
http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Course Outline:

Note: The course outline is only a guideline. It is subject to change based on discussion, current events, or other such influences. Additionally, there is considerable fluidity to when reading assignments will occur. These will be updated in class and through D2L announcements.

Week 1 (Jan 12 – 18)
- general course information
- general introduction to liberal studies and interdisciplinarity

Week 2 (Jan 19 - 25) (* MLK Day Jan 19)
- Critical thought and interdisciplinarity in action

Week 3 (Jan 26 – Feb 1)
- navigating interdisciplinarity – paradigms

Week 4 (Feb 2 – 8)
- navigating interdisciplinarity – critical being and investment into the subject

Week 5 (Feb 9 - 15)
- liberal studies in action - the research process initiated
- **Annotation Round One due Sept 28**

Week 6 (Feb 16 –22)
- liberal studies in action - thought, language and education
- **Exam One to be completed between Thurs, Feb 19 and Sun, Feb 22**

Week 7 (Feb 23 – Mar 1) (SWPACA week)
- liberal studies in action – reading scholarship critically
- **Individual Education Project due Mar 1**

Week 8 (Mar 2 – 15) (includes Spring Break)
- doing interdisciplinary studies – generating a topic and thinking through connections

Week 9 (Mar 16 – 22)
- doing interdisciplinary studies – establishing theoretical foundations and methods
- **Annotation Round Two due March 22**

Week 10 (Mar 23 – 29)
- doing interdisciplinary studies – getting it written
- **Exam Two to be completed between Thurs, March 26 and Sun, March 29**

Week 11 (Mar 30 – Apr 5)
- bringing it together as a whole
- **Annotation Round Three due April 5**

Week 12 (Apr 6 - 12)
- the peer review process

Week 13 (Apr 13 - 19)
- incorporating peer feedback
- **First Draft of Research Proposal Project due April 19**

<u>Week 14 (Apr 20 – 26)</u>
- revision and refinement
- **Peer Review of Research Proposal Projects due Apri; 26**

<u>Week 15 (Apr 27 – May 1)</u>
- tying things back together and looking ahead
- **Revised Research Proposal Project due May 1**

<u>Finals "Week" (May 2 - 8)</u>
- **Exam Three to be completed between the start of Exam Week and the close of our assigned exam slot, Tuesday, May 5 at 12:30 PM**
- **Reflective Review due Thursday, May 6**

final grades available via MyLeo on Tuesday, May 12