

**Course Information:**

Title: Current Topics – Interdisciplinary Research

Course #: BA8095

Credit Hours: 1G

Term: Spring 2015-16 Academic Year

**Faculty Sponsor Information:**

Name: Suzanne Masterson

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**Student Facilitators:**

Name: Gary Cornwall

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Name: Jacki Perrmann

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Office Hours: By Appointment

**Communication Policy:**

Jacki and I are available by appointment as well as regularly scheduled office hours. If you email either of us we will do our best to respond within a single business day.

**Course Description:**

This course is focused on preparing each student to complete research related tasks in a cross-disciplinary environment. Specifically, the skills being developed in this class relate to the understanding and synthesizing cross-disciplinary material relevant to a variety of research interests. A main focus of this class will be providing each student a profile of current research relevant to their specific area of interest while simultaneously exposing them to the topics of other students. A secondary goal of this course is to develop inter-disciplinary research projects between students and foster a collaborative environment for research between departments.

**Course Outline:**

Each week one or two research topics will be chosen from the interests of the attending students. Each student will be responsible for finding one paper in their respective field that is relevant to the research topic chosen. A one or two page executive summary (single spaced) will need to be written outlining the hypothesis, methodology, and conclusions of the paper.

This summary should be detailed enough for the students to have a general understanding of the paper and begin to understand how it fits into their research paradigm. When writing the summary close attention should be paid to any critical assumptions needed to support the author's hypothesis as well as any unique methodological aspects to the study. It is necessary that some effort be put into selecting the paper. Preference goes to top journals and you should do some digging into the citation network of the paper. Please also provide bio information on the authors of the paper. Is this the only paper they have written on the topic or is their publication history focused on the topic?

The week that research topic is to be covered there will be a one hour discussion panel on the topic led by two or three of the students. These students should come prepared with more

detailed notes and thought provoking questions to facilitate the discussion. Additionally, they should have some idea of the size of this research topic in their field. Is the paper they chose widely cited? Is this a common research topic in their field? Who are some of the top researchers in their field working on this topic? This does require a bit more work than writing the summary but should only need to be once or twice per student over the course of the semester.

### **What skills will you take away from this class?**

- Literature review is an important part of the research process and you will be tested in this area time and time again as you are asked to find papers on a topic. This will provide you practice and, in the end, a level of proficiency in completing literature reviews for your own research.
- The ability to recognize cross discipline research areas and understand the perspective of those other fields. Hopefully this will provide ideas for expanding your own research and allow the incorporation of theories from other disciplines.
- At conferences you will sometimes asked to be a discussant on a paper or lead a symposium/panel discussion on a topic. This course will provide you the skills to lead these discussions and provide a well-rounded experience for the participants.

### **What will you physically take away from this class?**

- A research profile specific to your area of interest with a number of executive summaries covering relevant papers.
- A general research profile for each of the other student's area of interest to draw from in your own research.

### **Time in class and out of class expectations.**

- 2 Hours every other week.
- Out of class expectations vary but should average around 3-4 hours a week.

### **Course Materials**

There are no required materials for this course. All work will be completed in the form of literature reviews of peer reviewed journals specific to your field.

### **Course Policies and Grading**

Any changes to the syllabus, due dates, course requirements or grading requirements will be made as far in advance as possible. Due dates should be clearly marked in Blackboard for all assignments. Any Connect assignments will be submitted by accessing the assignments within Blackboard.

#### ***Grading:***

- This course will be a pass-fail course. Provided you complete the executive summaries, attend class, and lead any pertinent discussion times a passing grade will be given at the end of the semester.

***Attendance:***

- This course is built on discussion and discovery. Though no attendance is taken it is important for you to be available during class times to provide distinct view points from your field on various research topics.

***Academic Integrity:***

Academic dishonesty as defined by University policy (e.g., plagiarizing, cheating, etc.), will not be tolerated in any form. As with all College of Business activities, this course will uphold the College's high standards for ethics and professionalism. Our Values Statement specifies: "All College of Business interactions will be characterized by mutual respect and integrity, and driven by a shared desire for excellence." These values are detailed in the Student Code of Conduct ([http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code\\_of\\_Conduct.html](http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code_of_Conduct.html)).

As with all Lindner College of Business efforts, this course will uphold the highest ethical standards, critical to building character. Ensuing your integrity is vital and your responsibility. LCB instructors are required to report ANY incident of academic misconduct (e.g., cheating, plagiarism) to the college review process, which could result in severe consequences, including potential dismissal from the college. For further information on Academic Misconduct or related university policies and procedures, please see the UC Code of Conduct (<http://www.uc.edu/ucinfo/conduct.html>).

The University Rules, including the Student Code of Conduct, and other documented policies of the department, college, and university related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any violation of these regulations, including acts of plagiarism or cheating, will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct.

Intentional plagiarism is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. There are times though when students commit plagiarism unintentionally simple because they do not fully understand what it is and is not. I have attached a link below that fully explains what plagiarism is and how you can avoid it. You have now been provided with the information and will be expected to not commit plagiarism in this course or any other course.

What is plagiarism? (<http://science.widener.edu/svb/essay/plagiar.html>)

Any violation, including academic misconduct, will be subject to the college review process, and could result in dismissal from the program.

***Special needs policy:***

If you have a disability (e.g., visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability) which may influence your performance in this course, you must meet with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to arrange for reasonable accommodations to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. If you require accommodations due to disability, please contact the DSO at 513.556.6823 or in 210 University Pavilion. You will be provided an Accommodation Form indicating your accommodation needs for the semester. Please present this form to me as soon as possible to ensure your accommodation needs are discussed, agreed upon, and provided.