



Creative Inquiry: Interdisciplinary Thinking
MWSU 2003-Honors
Fall 2021

Course: MWSU 2003 Creative Inquiry:

10:00-10:50 MWF

336 Dillard

Instructors:

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Office Hours: 10:00-12:00 MWF, 11:00 am-1:00 pm TR

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the epistemological and methodological approaches used in the acclimation of knowledge. It is an interdisciplinary study of research methods, knowledge, and the search for truth in our world. We will examine the generation of knowledge in the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities as well as how it is expressed in the visual and performing arts and applied in the business and education professions. The format for the course will include lectures, discussions, and active exercises and requires student participation. Throughout the course you will complete various research exercises as you explore interdisciplinary research. Your final product will be the creation of an electronic learning portfolio that documents the knowledge gained during this semester's journey into research.

Textbook and Other Resources

All readings and assignments will be placed in D2L.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able:

1. Explain the nature of knowledge in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.
2. Identify how knowledge is expressed in the visual and performing arts and applied in the business and education professions.
3. Utilize 21st century technology as well as traditional methods in each of these areas of human exploration.
4. Understand how new knowledge is generated in these various areas as well as the challenges or dilemmas associated with such research.
5. Identify a research question, develop a plan of investigation, and select an appropriate method for investigation.
6. Present research in the appropriate format for the associated area of human investigation.
7. Construct a learning portfolio to document your introduction to the research process.

Expectations and Grading:

Students are expected to attend class. Lectures will not reproduce the texts. During class, students are expected to behave in an adult fashion: i.e. no note passing, punching, kissing, kicking or other juvenile behavior. Disrespectful behavior towards other students or the teacher will not be tolerated and will result in your removal from the class. Also, please turn cellular phones off or put them away during class. Since this class is designed to develop your research skills you will primarily be evaluated on your ability to apply these skills in various assignments and exercises. This includes a larger group research project. Your course grade will be determined by the percentage breakdown below. The privilege of additional work will not be granted.

Learning Activity	Percentage
Reflection Essays	30%
Campus Improvement Project	30%
Celebration of Scholarship Poster Presentation	10%
Research Exercises and Participation	10%
Learning Portfolio	20%

Disability Policy

Any student in this course who has disability that may preclude demonstrating fully his or her abilities should contact me as soon as possible. We will discuss the accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate education.

Academic Dishonesty

We take academic dishonesty issues very seriously and will check your work. By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes. The University's minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a failure of the assignment. Cheating or plagiarism can lead to expulsion from the university. If you have questions about original work, please consult the Student Handbook Code of Student Conduct section 10.

Reference Information

Below is the reference information for the texts we will read for the first part of the course. Any additional readings will be provided by our guest speakers.

- Gould, S. J. (1997) "Nonoverlapping Magisteria". Natural History 106: 16-22
<http://www.blc.arizona.edu/courses/schaffer/449/Gould%20Nonoverlapping%20Magisteria.htm>
- Jowett, B. (2009) Plato's Meno (Translation) <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/meno.html>
- Ross, W. D. (2009) Aristotle's Metaphysics, Book I. (Translation).
<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/metaphysics.1.i.html>
- van Jaarsveld, F. A. (1963) On objectivity, subjectivity and relativity in the writing of history. Symposium: A Journal for Education in Southern Africa, pp. 27-30

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
August 23: Monday	Introduction	Syllabus
August 25: Wednesday	Library Tour & Literature Review	Leedy & Ormrod Chapter 3
August 27: Friday	Learning Portfolio	324 Dillard
August 30: Monday	Overview of Research process	Leedy & Ormrod Chapter 2
September 1: Wednesday	Campus as Text	Campus as text exploration
September 3: Friday	Campus as Text Debriefing	Group reports
September 6: Monday	Labor Day	No Class
September 8: Wednesday	Is Knowledge learning or recollection?	Plato's Meno
September 10: Friday	Is Wisdom knowledge?	Aristotle's Metaphysics Book I. Parts 1-10
September 13: Monday	The acquisition of knowledge	F.A. van Jaarsveld. "On Objectivity, Subjectivity and Relativity in the Writing of History"
September 15: Wednesday	The Role of Science and Faith in the Human World	Stephen Jay Gould. "Nonoverlapping Magisteria" Natural History
September 17: Friday	Honors program review & Mindfulness	
September 20, 22, 24	Natural Sciences	Scientific Method, experimental research design
	Reflection Essay One on Plato, Aristotle, van Jaarsveld.	Reflection Essay One due
September 27: Monday	Social Sciences	
September 29: Wednesday	Survey Research	D2L
October 1: Friday	Content Analysis	D2L
October 4, 6, and 8	Research in the Humanities	D2L
	Archival Research Reflection Essay Two on Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities due	D2L Reflection Essay Two Due
October 11, 13, and 15	Fine arts & Journalism	D2L
October 15	Campus Improvement Project Proposal	Proposal Due
October 18, 20, and 22	Research in Health Sciences	D2L
October 25, 27, and 29	Research in Education	D2L
November 1, 3, and 5	Research in Business	D2L
November 9, 11, and 13	TBD	
November 15, 17, and 19	Work on Projects	
November 20 (Saturday)	Mini Symposium	Wichita Falls Museum of Art
November 22	No Class	
November 24 and 26	Thanksgiving Holiday	No Class
November 29	Essay three Due on Fine Arts, Business and Education	Catch up, Reflection Essay Three Due
December 1	Campus Improvement Project poster Presentation	Administrator Panel
December 3	Wrap up	
December 8 (Wednesday) (10:30-12:30)		E learning portfolios due