



Creative Inquiry: Interdisciplinary Thinking
MWSU 2003-Honors
Fall 2025

Course: MWSU 2003 Creative Inquiry:

10:00-10:50 MWF

177 Dillard

Instructors:

Dr. Steve Garrison, Director Redwine Honors Program

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Office Hours: 11:00-1:00 MWF, 11:00 am-2:00 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 Oral Presentation	30%
Campus Improvement Presentation 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.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
Aug 25: Monday	Introduction	Syllabus &
Aug 27: Wednesday	Research Question	Leedy & Ormord Chapter 2
Aug 29: Friday	Library Tour & Literature Review	Leedy & Ormord Chapter 3
Sept 1: Monday	No Class	Labor day Holiday
Sept 3: Wednesday	Campus as Text	Campus as text exploration
Sept 5: Friday	Campus as Text Debriefing	Group reports
Sept 8: Monday	Is Knowledge learning or recollection?	Plato's Meno
Sept 10: Wednesday	Is Wisdom knowledge?	Aristotle's Metaphysics Book I. Parts 1-10
Sept 12: Friday	The acquisition of knowledge	Whitley, David. "In Suspect Terrain: Dating Rock Engravings"
Sept 15: Monday	The Role of Science and Faith in the Human World	Stephen Jay Gould. "Nonoverlapping Magisteria" Natural History
Sept 17: Wednesday	Learning Portfolio	
Sept 19: Friday		
Sept 22: Monday	Lab Science	Liang
Sept 24	Natural Sciences/Field Work	
Sept, 26	Reflective Writing Workshop	Hillary Coenen
Sept 29	Survey Research	
October 1 & 3	Content Analysis	
October 6, 8, and 10	Research in the Humanities	
October 13, 15, and 17	Fine Arts	D2L
October 20, 22, and 24	Research in Business	D2L
October 27, 29, and 31	Research in Health Sciences	D2L
Nov 3, 5, and 7	Work days	
November 10, 12, and 14	Research in Education	D2L
November 17, 19, and 21		

November 22nd (Sat 10:00 am)	Campus Improvement Symposium	Moffett Library Atrium
November 26 & 28	Thanksgiving Holiday	No Class
December 1	Learning Portfolio	
December 3	Campus Improvement Project Poster Presentation	Administrator Panel Bridwell Atrium
December 1	Learning Portfolio	
December 10 (Wednesday) (10:30)		E learning portfolios due