



**Creative Inquiry: Interdisciplinary Thinking**  
**MWSU 2003-Honors**  
**Fall 2023**

**Course: MWSU 2003 Creative Inquiry:**

10:00-10:50 MWF

336 Dillard

**Instructors:**

Dr. Margaret Brown Marsden, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

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Office Hours: 11:00-11:50 and 1:00-1:50 MWF, 8:30-9:30 and 11:00 am-2:00 pm TR

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the epistemological and methodological approaches used in the acquisition 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

<b>Learning Activity</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
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.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
Aug 28: Monday	Introduction	Syllabus
Aug 30: Wednesday	Overview of Research process	Leedy & Ormord Chapter 2
Sept 1: Friday	Library Tour & Literature Review	Leedy & Ormord Chapter 3
Sept 4: Monday	Labor Day Holiday	No class
Sept 6: Wednesday	Campus as Text	Campus as text exploration
Sept 8: Friday	Campus as Text Debriefing	Group reports
Sept 11: Monday	Is Knowledge learning or recollection?	Plato's Meno
Sept 13: Wednesday	Honors Program Requirements	
Sept 15: Friday	Reflective Writing Workshop	
Sept 18: Monday	Is Wisdom knowledge?	Aristotle's Metaphysics Book I. Parts 1-10
Sept 20: Wednesday	The acquisition of knowledge	Whitley, David. "In Suspect Terrain: Dating Rock Engravings"
Sept 22: Friday	The Role of Science and Faith in the Human World	Stephen Jay Gould. "Nonoverlapping Magisteria" Natural History
Sept 25, 27, & 29	Natural Sciences	Scientific Method, experimental research design
	Reflection Essay One on Plato, Aristotle, van Jaarsveld.	Reflection Essay One due
October 2: Monday	Social Sciences	
October 4: Wednesday	Survey Research	D2L
October 6: Friday	Content Analysis	D2L
Oct 9, 11, and 13	Research in the Humanities	D2L
October 13	Campus Improvement Project Proposal	Proposal Due
October 16	Research in Fine Arts	Bly
October 18, and 20	Work Days	
October 23 & 25	Research in Fine Arts	Quam and Hilton
October 27	Work Days	
October 30, November 1, and 3	Research in Business	D2L
	D2L Reflection Essay Two Due	Reflection Essay Two on Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities due
November 6, 8, and 10	Research in Health Sciences	D2L
November 13, 15, and 17	Work on Projects	
November 18	Mini Symposium	Wichita Falls Museum of Art
November 20	No Class	
November 22 and 24	Thanksgiving Holiday	No Class
November 27, 29 & December 1	Research in Education	D2L
	Essay three Due on Fine Arts, Business and Education	Catch up
Dec 4	Campus Improvement Work Day	
December 6	Campus Improvement Project poster Presentation	Administrator Panel
December 8	Learning Portfolio work day	
Dec 13 (Wednesday) (10:30-12:30 )		E learning portfolios due