

***BIS 301 Homework Assignments***

**HW #1**

HW #1: Response to Identity Theories

(Post your assignment on the discussion board for your particular class section)

Which identity theory makes the most sense to you? In other words, which identity theory applies to you and your life (more than one theory can apply)?

Discuss how and why the theory makes the most sense to you. Write at least 10 sentences. Make sure your writing is as error-free as possible. You may want to write your response first in Word and then cut and paste it to the bulletin board. You will be graded on the quality of your answer (how thoughtful and comprehensive it is) as well as the quality of your writing.

**HW #2**

HW #2: Metaphor for Interdisciplinary Thinking

Dream up some comparisons between two unlike things with metaphor in order to encourage interdisciplinary thinking. Be sure to compare one thing in terms of another. Try then to utilize your metaphor as a vehicle to ask unusual questions and/or formulate interesting hypotheses/theories. How has the metaphor increased your thinking about the connections between two disciplinary perspectives?

Take for example the metaphor that your workplace is a maze. With this metaphor you are bridging some principles of animal behavior (say, rats in a maze) to the ways in which people react to change at your work (If you think this is a stretch, take another look at your workplace!) How can similarities between two seemingly quite different things help us to gain a deeper understanding into the nature of one (or both) of these things? How can knowledge in one domain inform or shed light on phenomenon in another domain? What can rats teach us about goals? Determination? Communication? Personality characteristics? How can rat behavior in a maze help you develop creative ways to get to the root cause of a problem you may be having with someone in your life? What kinds of solutions are suggested?

(The above example was borrowed from David Thomas)

Basically this assignment is designed for students to use three types of thinking:

1. Creative thinking: Coming up with an effective metaphor combining an abstraction with a concrete specific thing
2. Analytical thinking: Analyzing your metaphor
3. Reflection: Reflection on the process: what did you learn about how the abstraction is viewed when compared to the concrete thing that you didn't realize before? Did your analysis confirm your initial belief that the metaphor was effective, or have you changed your mind from doing the analysis?

You should address all three types of thinking--in other words, follow the suggested format by stating/describing/explaining your metaphor, then analyzing your metaphor, and finally, reflecting on the process.

Assignment needs to be typed, handed in—at least one page in length single-spaced, one and a half pages double-spaced. I am looking for comprehensiveness and thoughtfulness in your discussion, as well as overall effort.

NOTE: Avoid inappropriate metaphors. Do not compare a living or deceased human being with an object (i.e., treat a person as an abstraction that is compared to a thing) or an animal. Do not use "Life is X" type of metaphors as the discussion tends to be either vague, superficial, or extremely poetic, which makes grading your work very difficult for me. You will receive zero credit for this assignment if you use inappropriate metaphor(s).

### HW #3

[idsprocessworksheet3.doc](#) ( 30720 Bytes )

HW #3: Exercise on the Integrative Process

Drawing from Bill Newell's conception of interdisciplinary (his 1983 model of his theory of the integrative process) as discussed in Chapter Six of Augsburg's textbook, *Becoming Interdisciplinary*, identify an interdisciplinary problem and step by step way of identifying how the problem can be addressed or studied. Be sure to identify the complex phenomenon as an interdisciplinary problem, appropriate disciplinary perspectives to be used, salient concepts if appropriate, complete list of disciplinary insights, areas of overlaps and areas of incongruity/conflict, your interdisciplinary response, and an evaluation/reflection on the process.

Newell's Conception of Interdisciplinary Study (1983)

1. Become struck by a "confrontation" with a complex phenomenon.
2. Formulate an interdisciplinary question.
3. Gather all relevant disciplines.
4. Consider the problem/question through the perspectives of each discipline, one at a time.
5. Gather together all the insights gained from each discipline.
6. Evaluate all the insights.
7. Fashion an interdisciplinary response to the question.

Attached is the worksheet for this assignment.

### Sample HW # 3

[Integrative\\_Process.doc](#) ( 51200 Bytes )

Here is a sample HW #3 from Spring 2005 semester. The author is Joseph Allred. Do not copy verbatim. This sample is only to give you a rough idea how to do the assignment.

Include also your scratch piece of paper that contains your concept mapping. Just staple it to the worksheet.

### HW #4 and HW #5

HW # 4&5

*Definition of Discipline:*

*Find an academic definition of one of your disciplines by consulting textbooks, academic disciplinary journals, books published by university presses, departmental or*

*professional academic organization web sites. Do not try to define a discipline by looking up the word in the dictionary! Be sure to cite correctly: include parenthetical citations and a sample bibliography (either a Works Cited or a References page). HW #4 is your definition, and HW #5 will be your citations.*

*Words to the Wise: Take the time to find the best possible sources of information. You should choose your sources carefully. Do not rely on either dictionaries or encyclopedias for definitions. Do consult your class notes, textbooks, professors, departmental websites at renowned universities, websites of professional academic associations, and leading academic journals. Do not rely only on Internet sources. Definitions cited from Wikipedia will not be accepted and will receive 0 points. Make the time investment to do library research—it will pay off handsomely in dividends as you progress in your education.*

*This assignment is to help you prepare for your BIS Plan of Study. Be sure to save this homework assignment electronically. Hopefully you will be able to use this definition for your BIS Plan of study. In the process of researching and answering the prompts for your BIS plan of study, you will gain a more comprehensive understanding of the discipline. You will have a better understanding of how an expert in the discipline thinks. Ultimately you will have a better understanding of the culture of the discipline. Be sure to vet your findings with the findings of your fellow students and especially with the writings of experts in the discipline you are researching.*

Name of Discipline: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition of Discipline:

### **HW # 6**

*HW #6: Definitions of Leading Concepts and Citation Styles*

*Identify and define/discuss at least one concept from each of your concentration areas with correct citation style. It is important that you understand how a given discipline defines a specific concept as another discipline may define the concept differently. Go beyond the obvious in choosing concepts: no “supply” or “demands” please.*

*Words to the Wise: The more research you do for this homework assignment now, the less you will have to do later for your BIS Plan of Study.*

### **HW # 7**

*HW #7: Summary of a Leading Theory and Citation Style*

*Identify and summarize/discuss a leading theory in one of your disciplines with correct citation style. Be sure to mention the theorist who came up with the theory. Go beyond the obvious with this assignment: do not list any “obvious” theories discussed in class,*

such as Maslow's Theory of Actualization.

### **HW # 8**

#### **HW#8: Portfolio Mission Statement**

*Reviewing the samples provided in the reader, write your mission statement that will be included in your BIS 301 Portfolio. If you are stuck, be sure to fill out the mission statement activities sheet found in the reader as well.*

### **HW # 9**

#### **HW #9: Team Demonstration Subtopic Integration Exercise**

*Explain the following regarding the interdisciplinary problem solving process for your group presentation comprehensively (at least two full paragraphs--3/4s of a page):*

*How the problem interdisciplinary, in your humble opinion? (You should answer this question individually without consulting your team members).*

*Describe the group interdisciplinary integrative process.*

*What are your specific tasks for the teaching demonstration?*

### **HW # 10**

#### **HW #10: Course Reflection**

*Reflect on your BIS 301 Experiences. Did they live up to your expectations? Why or why not? What was the most significant learning experience you had in BIS 301?*

*Has BIS 301 helped you understand better your degree and how you can use your degree? Have you tried to explain your degree to others since the beginning of the course? If so, compare how you used to describe your degree with how you describe it now.*

*Also, reflect on your efforts in this course. Could they have been improved? How and why?*

*Finally, reflect on what was positive and negative about the course. How can this course be improved?*

*Be honest and comprehensive. You will not be graded down if you write down negative things: on the contrary, I appreciate very much your honest and critical feedback.*

*Your reflection should be two typed double-spaced pages.*

