

**Fall 2003: ISP 6010 (001/14220)**  
**INTRODUCTORY CORE SEMINAR:**  
**INTRODUCTION TO INTERDISCIPLINARITY**

Time and Location

Mondays, 6:00 p.m.  
Rm 122 Cohn

Instructor

Professor Julie Thompson Klein

Contact Information

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Office: Interdisciplinary Studies, #2414 AAB, Wayne State University

Office Hours: In person by appointment; by email 24/7

Course Blackboard (BB) Website

< <http://blackboard.wayne.edu/>>. Archive of course materials and Discussion Board.

Weather Information: 313-577-5345 or major radio stations for closings

Course Calendar

Week 1	September 8
Week 2	September 15
Week 3	September 22
Week 4	September 29
Week 5	October 6
.....	<b>October 9-12 ..... AIS Conference</b>
Week 6	October 13
Week 7	October 20
Week 8	October 27 NO CLASS
Week 9	November 3 NO CLASS
Week 10	November 10
Week 11	November 17
Week 12	November 24
Week 13	December 1
Week 14	December 8
Week 15	December 15 -- Finals Week

## Texts

- W. Newell (Ed). Interdisciplinarity: Essays from the Literature. NY: College Board, 1998.
  - Klein, J.T. Interdisciplinarity: History, Theory, and Practice. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990.
  - Klein, J.T. et al. (Eds.). Transdisciplinarity: Joint Problem Solving among Science, Technology, and Society. Basel: Birkhauser, 2001. (Loan copy from instructor)
  - Seminar Reader (modest copying fee).
- Also recommended: Andrea Lunsford. The Everyday Writer. Second Edition NY: St. Martin's Press, 2002. This is the required department reference work.

## **Course Goals**

ISP 6010 is required of all MISP students, in both the Individualized Studies and the Historical and Cultural Studies tracks. The course introduces theories and methods of interdisciplinary study. Three major themes appear in all sections of the course:

- interdisciplinary thinking
- disciplinary depth
- research methodology.

More specifically, students will:

- become acquainted with the concept of interdisciplinarity and the role of disciplinarity
- engage in a major case study or smaller case studies
- acquire advanced research skills and electronic database tools
- gain experience in collaborative learning
- write integrative and critical essays and work through stages of an individual project
- attend a national meeting of the Association for Integrative Studies (AIS)

Because it is fundamental to the Master of Interdisciplinary Studies Program, and because we have a rare opportunity to participate in a national meeting on interdisciplinary studies, our topic this semester is interdisciplinarity. In addition to preliminary work on the definition and process of interdisciplinarity, plus the national conference, we will pursue a series of case studies:

- (1) Interdisciplinary fields
- (2) Interdisciplinary problem-focused research (the environment, health-medicine-bioethics, science and IDR)
- (3) Interdisciplinarity and the disciplines and professions
- (4) Student research projects

## Course Requirements

- (1) Seminar attendance, participation, and weekly agendas (20%)
- (2) AIS conference attendance and 3 related Journal Reports (15%)
- (3) Short Paper #1 (10%)
- (4) Extension for Short Paper #2 (15%)
- (5) Completion of Stages of Final Research Paper/Project and Oral Report (40%)

### Written Requirements

- Weekly Agendas (with a copy of each submitted to instructor): a 1-page reflection on key points of interest in assigned readings. Imagine you are in charge of leading discussion for the evening and want to frame it in terms of the goals of the course, while also noting links to personal interests. Avoid rote summary. Concentrate on key questions, and note any points of confusion so I can respond. Advance discussion welcome on the BB site.
- AIS Conference Attendance and Journal Reports: Participation will count in lieu of 2 weekly meetings (# 8 and #9), and registration fee will be waived. The conference meets at the Renaissance Center, so you must pay for parking. However, you are entitled to two complementary lunches. Everyone must attend a minimum of 3 sessions. We will debrief in class on Week 7 and you will submit Journal Reports on the 3 sessions you attended. Each report should be a minimum of 1 page, using a common form.
- Short Paper #1 is a preliminary definition of interdisciplinarity based on readings through Week 4 plus any examples from your academic, personal, and professional lives. Length: 3 double-spaced pages or equivalent (250 words per page via email).
- Short Paper #2 is a more fully developed definition of interdisciplinarity synthesizing conclusions from Paper #1, subsequent readings through Week 10, any key related points from the AIS conference, and added personal, academic, and professional examples. Length: 5 double-spaced pages or equivalent.
- The Long Research Paper/Project is an interdisciplinary case study on a topic of your choice. It must be completed in designated stages (prospectus and 3 drafts) and be accompanied by an oral report. Students wishing to explore topics for the thesis may treat papers/projects as seed work. Length: 15 double-spaced pages with a minimum of 12 sources not exclusively from internet.

### Criteria for evaluating written work:

- following all instructions
- completing all assignments (including designated stages of research and writing)
- demonstrating awareness of knowledge and information relevant to a topic
- presenting a clear and coherent argument and organization
- demonstrating critical thinking
- making accurate and fair use of appropriate sources (avoiding plagiarism)
- displaying technical competence in grammar and style.

### Wayne State University Grading Policy

- A = Excellent (A equivalent to 4.00 HPA; A- equivalent to 3.67)
- B = Good (B+ 3.33 HPA; B 3.00; B- 2.67)
- C = Average (C+ 2.33 HPA; C 2.00; C- 1.67)
- D = Poor (D+ 1.33 HPA; D 1.00; D- 0.67)
- E = Not acceptable (E or F = 0.00 HPA)

I = A situation to avoid: an "Incomplete" means you did not complete requirements but submitted enough work to qualify for an extension. You must complete at least 50% of the requirements to qualify for this option, and there must be a reasonable probability of completing the course without attending regular class sessions. Be aware that an "I" automatically converts to an "E" at the end of one academic year.

X = A most unpleasant grade: an "'X'" means you did not attend, failed to withdraw before the official drop date, or did not complete enough work for an "I" or a "Y" (a mark for an ongoing thesis or dissertation). You must pay tuition again to retake the course.

### University Policy on Disabilities

For further questions about University policies, see the *University Bulletin*. If you feel that you may need accommodation based on a disability, contact me privately. The Office of Educational Accessibility Services (EAS) also assists in accommodations for students with documented disabilities. It is located in the Student Center Building, Room 583, phone: 313-577-1851 (Voice)/577-3365 (TTY).

### Interdisciplinary Studies Attendance Policy

Punctual attendance at every scheduled weekly meeting and a minimum of 3 sessions at the AIS conference is required. All absences are equal, whether illness-, work-, vacation-, or family-related. If an emergency arises, contact me within 24 hours. Coming to class significantly late or leaving significantly early will be factored into attendance. There will also be required makeup work for missed classes. You will do best if you keep up. If you fall behind or have a bad week, it's better to come to class to benefit from discussion than not show up. In accordance with ISP attendance policy, any student absent three or more times will be dropped automatically from the course.

### University Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is a form of cheating that results in a grade of "E" and possible suspension from the University. Plagiarism is defined as using other people's work without crediting them, regardless of whether you are paraphrasing or using their direct words without quotation marks. Consult The Everyday Writer for conventions on proper use of sources.

<b>WEEKLY SCHEDULE</b>
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**PART I:**  
**Introduction, Definition, Case Studies, AIS Conference**

**Week 1. September 8: Introduction**

Introduction to course syllabus texts, and AIS Conference Brochure. Distribution of data sheets and self-assessment exercise. Introduction of seminar members. Preliminary definition of interdisciplinarity. In Seminar Reader: brochures “Why Interdisciplinary Studies?” and “Our Students Say”; Roslyn Abt Schindler, “Interdisciplinarity and the Adult/Lifelong Learning Connection” (as a model for weekly agendas).

**Week 2. September 15: Definition**

Refinement of preliminary definition. Discussion of self-assessment exercise and readings. In Newell: foreword xi-xii, Klein and Newell (3-22), Newell and Green (23-34), and Trow (181-94). In Seminar Reader: Klein, “Interdisciplinary Today: Why? What? And How?” In Klein: “The Evolution of Interdisciplinarity” (19-39) and “An Interdisciplinary Lexicon” (55-73).

- **Turn in Weekly Agenda: Week 2**

**Week 3. September 22: Process**

Discussion of readings In Newell: Hursh, Haas, and Moore (35-49), “Guide to Interdisciplinary Syllabus Instruction” (97-99). In Seminar Reader: Sverre Sjolander, Excerpt from “Long-Term and Short-Term Interdisciplinary Work,” pp. 87-90. Discussion of process model: “Butch and Sundance” (from PBS series NOVA)

- Preliminary discussion of final research paper/projects (topics, process stages, plan for library database training)

- **Turn in Weekly Agenda: Week 3**

**Week 4. September 29. Case Study #1: Interdisciplinary Fields**

In Newell: Lebow (463-79). In Seminar Reader: Klein, “Interdisciplinary Studies” [includes sections on “Environment” and “Women” also in Newell], Stephen Katz, “The Field of Gerontology and Problematizations of Old Age”; Einstadter & Henry, “Fission or Fusion”

- Finalize plan for AIS Conference attendance. Also print out and bring to class this week the following sections from the AIS website (<http://www.units.muohio.edu/aisorg>): Introduction, the Organization (front page, Purpose, and Fact Sheet), The Conference (front page), Publications (front page), Connections (front page). Directory of IDS Doctoral Programs (front page).

- **Turn in Weekly Agenda: Week 4**

- **Short Paper #1 Due**

**Week 5. October 6. Case Study #2: The Environment**

In Klein, et al.: Häberli, et al. (3-22, Klein (35-44), Gibbons and Nowotny (67-80), Truffer, et al (153-58), Lukesch, et al. (159-166). Jabbar, Saleem, and Li-Pun (167-172), Kulikauskas, et al. (194-200), Wyss, et al. (207-13).

- Also print out and bring to class the following sections of the New Directions site (<http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/newdirections/>). In PRODUCTS/OUTCOMES, “To Date (12/02)”; In CASE STUDIES the front page and descriptions of each of the current case studies (click on each link to get there).

•**Turn in Weekly Agenda: Week 5**

**October 9-12: AIS Conference**

Week 6. October 13. Library Database Training

Meet at Adamany Library, Computer Lab A on the first floor promptly by 6:00 p.m.. We will meet with Deborah Tucker of the library staff from 6:00-7:30 for formal training, then you are free to use the lab or Purdy/Kresge library for the remainder of the evening.

Week 7. October 20. Conference Debriefing and Part I Synthesis

- Oral debriefing from library and AIS conference (with Journal Reports)
- Synthesis of Part I for Paper #2.
- **3 Journal Reports Due**

Week 8 (October 27) NO CLASS

Week 9 (November 3) NO CLASS

**PART II:**  
**CASE STUDIES, RESEARCH PROCESS, STUDENT PROJECTS**

Week 10. November 10, Case Study #3: Health and Medicine

In Newell: Turner (495-514). In Klein, “Interdisciplinary Care” (140-55). In Seminar Reader: Murray, "Confessions of an Unconscious Interdisciplinary"; Cassell, "How Interdisciplinary Work Gets Done"; DeWachter, “Interdisciplinary Bioethics” and “Interdisciplinary Teamwork”; Baldwin's history of interdisciplinary health care; Excerpts from physicians, medical scientists, and public health scientists (Benatar, McMurty, Last) from Transdisciplinarity: Re-Creating Integrated Knowledge.

•**Turn in Weekly Agenda: Week 10**

- **Paper #2 Due and Prospectus for Final Paper/Project**

Week 11. November 17: Case Study #4: Science and IDR

In Newell: Bechtel (399-426). In Klein: “IDR” (121-39). In Seminar Reader: Klein, “National Competitiveness”; W.T. Sackett, “Interdisciplinary Research in a High-Technology Company”; Jacob Stucki, “A Goal-Oriented Pharmaceutical Research and Development Organization”; Randolph Barker, “Farming Systems Research”; John Arnbes, “Developing a Plant Health-Care Initiative in U.S. Agriculture”; Excerpts from

Scientific Interfaces and Technological Applications; Geoff Mulgan, "Introduction" to Connexity; Handouts: graphic Models of process.

**•Turn in Weekly Agenda: Week 11**

Week 12. November 24: Social Sciences and the Public Sphere

In Newell: Hershberg (195-209), Van Dusseldorp and Wigboldus (299-336), Stember (337-50), Geertz (225-37). In Seminar Reader: Fleischman, "Policy Analysis" Longest, "The Process of Public Policymaking: A Conceptual Model," Simon and Goode, "Constraints on the Contribution of Anthropology to Interdisciplinary Policy Studies."

**•Turn in Weekly Agenda: Week 12**

**• Submit Draft #1 of Final Paper/Project**

Week 13 December 1 Humanities and Student Projects Part I

In Newell: Klein (273-95), Cluck (353-6), Bal (363-87), Cornwell and Stoddard, "Things Fall Together (515-26)

**• Student Oral Reports Part I**

**•Turn in Weekly Agenda Week 13**

**• Submit Draft # 2 of Final Paper/Project**

Week 14. December 8. Student Projects II and Course Evaluations

\*Plan on having an informal dinner in class that night, for a surprise event.

**• Student Oral Reports Part II**

**• Course Evaluations**

Week 15. December 15. FINALS WEEK

**Final Papers Due by Email or Snailmail to Home Address**