Syllabus - Fall 2015
GPS 4278W - Integrating General Studies - Family
(formerly GS 4278W)

Excluding textbooks, the information on this syllabus is subject to change. For the most up-to-date syllabus, check this site on the first day of classes.

Program Information

This is a three-credit undergraduate level course. It satisfies the integrative capstone requirement for students in the Bachelor of General Studies degree (BGS) program.

The developer of this course was Ken Fuchsman.

Course and Instructor Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title:</th>
<th>Integrating General Studies - Family (GPS 4278W)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credits:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format:</td>
<td>Online via HuskyCT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instructor: Section *90
Jennifer Trachtenberg
Email: Jennifer.Trachtenberg@uconn.edu
After the first day of classes, students registered in the course should send messages to the instructor via HuskyCT Messages.

Availability: Unless otherwise noted, I will check into the course at least five days a week to monitor discussions and respond to HuskyCT Messages. If I expect to be away due to illness, travel or family obligations, I will make every attempt to notify you in advance.

Instructor: Section *93
Ken Fuchsman
Email: ken.fuchsman@uconn.edu
(After the first day of classes, students registered in the course should send messages to the instructor via HuskyCT Messages).

Availability: Unless otherwise noted, I will check into the course at least five days a week to monitor discussions and respond to HuskyCT Messages. If I expect to be away due to illness, travel or family obligations, I will make every attempt to notify you in advance.

Permission Requests:
This course is open to Bachelor of General Studies students only.

Course Description

Integrates the fields of general and interdisciplinary studies. Traces emergence of interdisciplinary studies and compares different academic disciplines. The future of interdisciplinary studies is assessed.

The nature of the family will be explored from the perspective of different academic disciplines. The approaches of the different disciplines will be examined and compared. The need for interdisciplinary studies of the family will be discussed. The academic disciplines to be studied in relationship to the family are biology, anthropology, history, literature and psychology.

Course Materials
Students must have all required course materials before the first day of class.

These texts are available through a local or online bookstore. For more information, see Textbooks and Materials on our Enrolled Students page.

Required Materials:


Additional course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources (Electronic Course Reserve/ECR).

### Course Requirements and Grading

#### Grading Procedures:

Your grade will be based on your participation in threaded discussion, a midterm essay and a final paper.

**Discussion 35%**  
The course consists of seven modules and you are expected to select and participate in two discussions for each module.

**Midterm Essay 30%**  
The midterm essay is a take home essay exam covering the first part of the course.

**Final Essay 35%**  
The final essay is a take home essay exam that is cumulative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Discussions</th>
<th>Midterm Essay</th>
<th>Final Essay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Hours per Day</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Information Literacy Competency

This course fulfills the information literacy competency of the general education requirements.

Information literacy concerns
the general understanding and competency of three integrally related processes:

(1) information development and structure - an understanding of how information is created, disseminated and organized;

(2) information access - an understanding of information communication processes and a facility with the tools required to tap into these processes;

(3) information evaluation and integration - an ability to evaluate, synthesize and incorporate information into written, oral, or media presentations.

To fulfill this competency in this course, you will need to compare and contrast information resources across a variety of formats (e.g., journal, book, Web site, database) and synthesize this information into the writing requirements. More details on how to fulfill this competency are included in the first learning module of the course.

The final course grading scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Writing (W) Competency

This course fulfills the writing competency of the general education requirements. You will be required to write a minimum of fifteen pages that have been revised for conceptual clarity and development of ideas, edited for expression, and proofread for grammatical and mechanical correctness.

During this W course, your instructor will address the writing process and provide feedback to you for ongoing revision throughout the course. The structure of revision and supervision can vary but may utilize the mail and assignment tools within the HuskyCT course. You may schedule an individual consultation with your instructor by telephone or in person. Please do NOT use outside email.

Enrollment is restricted to 19 students.

Students must pass the writing component in order to pass the course.
A final grade for the class will be submitted only when all the required work for the course is completed.

Due Dates
The Course Schedule in HuskyCT lists all due dates for the course. All course deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly.

Feedback and Grades

I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades in a timely manner. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Analyze how the human family can be best understood from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Explain the nature of interdisciplinary studies and compare the findings of selected academic disciplines with practical experience.
- Examine how general studies and general education are integral to a University education.
- Describe the nature and methodology of certain academic disciplines and relate them to each other.
- Compare and contrast information resources across a variety of formats (e.g., journal, book, Web site, database) and synthesize this information into the writing assignments.
- Demonstrate effective writing by clearly presenting ideas and logical arguments in course discussions and assignments.
- Demonstrate ethical responsibility in all course related activities through the application of authorship and copyright policies and compliance with the University's Student Code.

Course Outline

Module 1: Course Introduction: Integrating General Studies

Module 2: Biology

Module 3: Anthropology

Module 4: History

Module 5: English

Module 6: Psychology

Module 7: Interdisciplinary Integration

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. This section provides a brief overview to important standards, policies and resources.

Student Code
You are responsible for acting in accordance with the University of Connecticut's Student Code, available at http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html. Review and become familiar with these expectations. In particular, make sure you have read the section that applies to you on Academic Integrity:

- Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research
- Academic Integrity in Graduate Education and Research

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously at the University of Connecticut. As a student, it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. If you need more information about the subject of plagiarism, use the following resources:

- Plagiarism: How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It
- Instructional Module about Plagiarism
- University of Connecticut Libraries’ Student Instruction (includes research, citing and writing resources)

Netiquette and Communication

At all times, course communication with fellow students and the instructor are to be professional and courteous. It is expected that you proof read all your written communication, including discussion posts, assignment submissions, and mail messages. If you are new to online learning or need a netiquette refresher, please look at this guide titled, The Core Rules of Netiquette.

Adding or Dropping a Course

If you should decide to add or drop a course, there are official procedures to follow:

- Matriculated students should add or drop a course through Peoplesoft.
- Non-degree students should refer to the Registrar’s office Non-Degree page for more information.

You must officially drop a course to avoid receiving an "F" on your permanent transcript. Simply discontinuing class or informing the instructor you want to drop does not constitute an official drop of the course. For more information, refer to the:

- Undergraduate Catalog
- Graduate Catalog

Academic Calendar

The University's Academic Calendar contains important semester dates.

Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

The University of Connecticut's online course management system, HuskyCT, is a product of Blackboard, Inc. "Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility levels using two sets of standards; Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued from the United States federal government and the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)." (Retrieved December 1, 2008 from http://www.blackboard.com/company/accessibility.aspx).
Software and Platform Requirements

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, HuskyCT. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, online students have 24x7 access to live chat, phone and support documents through www.ecampus24x7.uconn.edu. You also have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours in the Digital Learning Center (www.dlc.uconn.edu).

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (ORIE).

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