University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee
ISS 4939, 3 Credit Hours
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Capstone Seminar, Spring 2015
Wednesdays 6:00-8:50pm, SMC B336

Instructor: Dr. Eric Hodges
Office: C266
E-Mail: ebhodges@usf.edu
Office Telephone: 2-4290

Office Hours: Wednesdays from 2:00pm-5:00pm, or by appointment

PREREQUISITES: STA 2122, ISS 3010, ISS 3300

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This seminar course is designed to facilitate the completion of a capstone project that is an original contribution to the interdisciplinary social sciences. The project will showcase the skills you have acquired throughout your course of study in the major. Selected topics will be used in the course to guide our interdisciplinary analysis.

COURSE TOPICS: This course will cover the following content areas:

1. Interdisciplinary research process
2. Interpretation and analysis of social scientific research
3. Examination and analysis of social scientific data
4. Social scientific writing

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the course are to:

1. Discuss similarities and differences between discipline-based perspectives on social scientific topics/problems
2. Apply major theoretical perspectives in the social science disciplines to understand a social scientific topic/problem
3. Utilize social science research skills to examine a social scientific topic/problem
4. Synthesize theory and research from at least two disciplines in an examination of a topic
5. Write about contemporary issues as a social scientist
COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the principles, methods, and theories informing an interdisciplinary analysis of the social sciences
2. Demonstrate conversance with the important principles, methods, and theories of at least two social science disciplines
3. Analyze, synthesize, and evaluate research from at least two social science disciplines
4. Demonstrate appropriate techniques of analysis, qualitative and/or quantitative, by synthesizing and evaluating previous research and making recommendations for future research
5. Write an interdisciplinary literature review in APA style

TEXT AND MATERIALS:

Materials: Please purchase a copy of Steven Pinker’s “The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century.” You can pick it up for around $12 on Amazon. While not required, I suggest purchasing or renting Allen Repko’s “Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory.” The text can be rented on Amazon for around $17.

Computer/Canvas access is required.

CANVAS USE:

The class syllabus is posted in CANVAS, an online course management system. In this class CANVAS will be used for course scheduling, announcements, reading assignments, assignment instructions, and submission of assignments. Canvas Support is available through USFSM E-Learning staff from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday. Please call or email Anthony Spall at 941-359-4202 (aspall@sar.usf.edu). The USF Tampa IT help desk also provides 24 hour support for CANVAS. Please call 813-974-1222 or email: help@usf.edu if you need assistance outside of USFSM’s E-Learning hours.

CANVAS tutorials can be found in the Student Quick-Start Guide at http://guides.instructure.com/m/8470.
COMPUTER LAPTOP USE

USFSM requires all students to have laptops that can be brought with them to class. On certain days, I will require you to bring your laptop to class. I will notify you in advance of this requirement. In addition, you may bring your laptop to class whenever you wish; however, laptops may be used for note taking, assignments, and library research only. If you are found to be using your laptop for purposes other than those listed, you will be asked to leave class and will be considered absent for the day. Cell phone use during class is not permitted.

PLAGIARISM SOFTWARE

The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows student assignments be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to ask students to submit their assignments to Turnitin through CANVAS. Assignments are compared automatically with a database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student’s paper was plagiarized.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), prior to submitting work to Turnitin, students are requested to delete any personal information (e.g., name, address, telephone) from the work being submitted. This protects students from having personal information disclosed to vendors or other outside agencies. By your submission, you are also agreeing to release your original work for review for academic purposes to Turnitin.

GRADING, EVALUATION AND ATTENDANCE POLICIES:

Evaluation

Paper Topic Proposal 2.5 points
Revised Topic Proposal 2.5 points
Annotated Bibliography 20 points
Data Analysis Assignment 15 points
Project Progress Presentation 5 points
Introduction & Literature Review Draft 50 points
Methodology Discussion/Data Analysis Draft 5 points
Integration Presentation 10 points
Final Paper 90 points
Final Research Presentation 25 points
Research Topic Presentation 15 points
Written Peer Feedback: 10 points

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250 points
GRADING
I will evaluate your work on a plus/minus grading system. You may use the following point scoring system to calculate your final grade. Please note that grading is based on points, not the percentages listed on Canvas.

Final Grade Point Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>250-243</td>
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<td>224-217</td>
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<table>
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<td>216-209</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>192-184</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>166-159</td>
<td>D</td>
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</tbody>
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ATTENDANCE
I expect you to attend each class. I will take attendance. If you miss more than 1 class (unexcused), you will lose 15 points from your overall grade total for each class missed. Excessive tardiness will also result in point deductions. If you anticipate missing a class due to a major religious observation or other legitimate reason, please notify me in writing as soon as possible.

ASSIGNMENTS
Late assignments that you submit will not be graded unless prior arrangements have been made with me. Graded late work will be penalized by a deduction of 50% the assignment value.

1.) *Capstone Paper*
Your capstone project will be an interdisciplinary investigation of a topic that relates to two social science disciplines (approximately 20 pages in length). The paper should illustrate your grasp of theory and methodology in your concentration areas and your ability to integrate the literature. Detailed instructions will be handed out in class.

Because the interdisciplinary research paper is a large project, I’ve developed shorter draft assignments that you will complete throughout the semester. Details for each assignment will be handed out in class.

*Capstone Paper Deadlines*
- Paper Topic Proposal - January 14
- Revised Topic Proposal - January 21
- Annotated Bibliography - February 11
- Data Analysis Assignment - March 11
- Introduction & Literature Review Draft - March 25
- Project Progress Presentation – April 1
2.) Research Topic Presentation
Each student is responsible for leading a class discussion of his or her research topic. I will assign discussion leading dates during the first week of class. In the discussion, you should present to the class two peer-reviewed research articles on your research topic. For each article, your presentation should cover the main purpose(s) of the research, the disciplinary perspective the author(s) take, the research questions and/or hypotheses investigated, the research methodology used, the key findings, and the conclusions. You should also discuss your evaluation of the findings, critique of the article, and how the article will be helpful for your research paper. Finally, discuss the differences between the articles as they relate to your project. The use of PowerPoint or Prezi for your presentation is encouraged.
If you fail to attend a class during which you are assigned to present your topic, you will receive a zero for the assignment. If you have a legitimate excuse, let me know ASAP.

3.) Written Peer Feedback
At the end of each class in which a student presents his/her research, you will be given time to provide written feedback to the student(s). The feedback may be handwritten or sent to me via email and should be aimed at helping the student develop his/her research project. You may write about your own comments on the presented research, ideas you had during their presentation, or other related topics that the student may want to investigate. The goal of these feedback assignments is to help your classmates in their research process. Once I receive all feedback, I will forward the comments (blinded) to the presenter.

CONTACTING ME
I hold office hours on Wednesdays from 2:00pm-5:00pm. I would also be happy to schedule meetings by appointment. The best way to contact me is by email (ebhodges@usf.edu). Please send me email through your USF email account (not Canvas messaging). If you send me an email during the weekend, please do not expect to hear back right away. I cannot guarantee that I will read my email on a Saturday or Sunday. In general, you should write email messages to professors as you would write business correspondence, not as you would write a text message.
USFSM AND USF SYSTEM POLICIES

A. Academic Dishonesty: The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university’s policy in the USFSM Catalog, the USF System Academic Integrity of Students, and the USF System Student Code of Conduct.

B. Academic Disruption: The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the USFSM Catalog, USF System Academic Integrity of Students, and the USF System Student Code of Conduct.

C. Contingency Plans: In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency. See the Campus Police Website for further information.

D. Disabilities Accommodation: Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Disability Coordinator, 941-359-4714, disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu, http://usfsm.edu/disability-services/

E. Fire Alarm Instructions: At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated. See Emergency Evacuation Procedures.
F. **Religious Observances:** USFSM recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes. Instructors canceling class for a religious observance should have this stated in the syllabus with an appropriate alternative assignment.

G. **Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment Reporting:** USFSM is committed to providing an environment free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence (USF System Policy 0-004). The Counseling and Wellness Center is a **confidential** resource where you can talk about incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. This confidential resource can help you without having to report your situation to either the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSSR) or the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity (DIEO), unless you request that they make a report.

Please be aware that in compliance with Title IX and under the USF System Policy, educators **must** report incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. If you disclose any of these situations in class, in papers, or to me personally, I am required to report it to OSSR or DIEO for investigation. The Deputy Coordinator for USFSM is Mary Beth Wallace, AVP for Student Enrollment, Engagement and Success, 941-359-4330 or marybeth@sar.usf.edu.

**Campus Resources:**
- Counseling Center and Wellness Center 941-487-4254
- Victim Advocate (24/7) 941-504-8599
- List of off-campus resources:
  - Hope of Manatee: 941-755-6805
  - Safe Place & Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) – Sarasota: 941-365-1976
  - First Call for Help- Manatee: 941-708-6488
  - Sarasota & North Port 941-366-5025
- Manatee Glens: 941-782-4800

H. **Web Portal Information:** Every newly enrolled USF student receives an official USF e-mail account. Students receive official USF correspondence and Canvas course information via that address.
# COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Introduction/Identifying a topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Disciplinary perspectives</td>
<td>Repko chapter 3, Pinker Prologue</td>
<td>Paper topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Disciplinary elements</td>
<td>Repko chapter 4, Pinker chapter 1</td>
<td>Revised paper topic, Presentation 1</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>Research Process</td>
<td>Repko chapter 6, Pinker chapter 2</td>
<td>Presentation 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>Identifying relevant disciplines</td>
<td>Repko chapter 7, Pinker chapter 3</td>
<td>Presentation 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Developing adequacy</td>
<td>Repko chapter 8, Pinker chapter 4</td>
<td>Annotated bibliography, Presentation 4</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>Evaluating disciplinary insights</td>
<td>Repko chapter 9, Pinker chapter 5</td>
<td>Presentation 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>Identifying conflicts</td>
<td>Repko chapter 10, Pinker chapter 6</td>
<td>Presentation 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Spring Break!</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Creating common ground</td>
<td>Repko chapter 11</td>
<td>Data Analysis, Presentation 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Integrating insights</td>
<td>Repko chapter 12</td>
<td>Presentation 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Producing interdisciplinary understanding</td>
<td>Repko conclusion pt. 1</td>
<td>Introduction and Literature Review, draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Project Progress Presentations</td>
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<td>Project Progress Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Evaluating your insights</td>
<td>Repko conclusion pt. 2</td>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>Writing workshop</td>
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<td>Methodology/analysis draft</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>Final presentations</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Final presentations</td>
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