IDS 390—Spring II 2018—Syllabus, Page 1

**IDS 390-SD5—Interdisciplinary Writing and Communication—Spring II 2018**

Instructor: Scott Pleasant  
Office: Kearns 102-A  
Office hours: 8:30-10:00 AM Mon.-Fri.*

* I plan to be available in my office (Kearns 102-A) during published office hours. However, these hours are subject to change. I will attempt to notify students of any change to these hours as soon as possible with some combination of e-mail, Moodle announcement, and/or a note on my office door. It is the student’s responsibility to check for and be aware of these changes.

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**Course Description.**  
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to academic and interdisciplinary writing skills and give each student a chance to practice those skills before moving on to upper-level courses in the IDS program.

**Course Objectives.** This course will:
- Develop students’ academic writing processes, with emphasis on practicing skills crucial for interdisciplinary research writing.
- Provide students with strategies for critical reading of disciplinary and interdisciplinary academic texts.
- Introduce students to oral/visual rhetoric tools and techniques as supplements to written communication.

**Student Learning Outcomes.** In this course, students will develop their abilities to:
- Write coherent and cohesive paragraphs.
- Plan, organize, and write multi-paragraph texts on interdisciplinary and single-discipline topics.
- Make rational arguments in writing with relevant evidence to support those arguments.
- Summarize, analyze, paraphrase, and quote according to the expectations for upper-level academic writing.
- Integrate written and oral/visual communication effectively to communicate their ideas.
- Read and comprehend disciplinary and interdisciplinary texts.
- Annotate and take notes on academic texts.
- Follow the formatting and citation guidelines for academic research writing.

**Course Requirements and Grade Weights (subject to change with notice)**
- Quizzes—five total (20%)
- Writing Exercises—five total (30%)
- Major Project (20%), consisting of two parts:
  - Interdisciplinary Research Paper (15%).
  - Supplemental Oral/Visual Presentation (5%).
- Final Test (10%)
- Discussion forums—six total—one per unit (15%)
- Course introduction requirements—three total (5%)
Quizzes
Students will take five online quizzes during the course (covering readings from the textbook and the PowerPoints accompanying those readings). All quizzes are open book. Quizzes may not be retaken or taken late. You are expected to read any relevant reading material and view any relevant PowerPoints before taking each quiz. These quizzes may be quite difficult for students who have not done so. All quizzes will include some combination multiple choice, short answer, and paragraph answer questions. Each quiz will have a time limit of 90 minutes. You will be expected to complete any required writing during this time frame.

Writing Exercises
There will be five writing exercises during the semester. Each exercise will be designed to reinforce concepts and skills covered in the textbook and in the PowerPoints accompanying the textbook. Each writing exercise will have its own assignment sheet and grading rubric on Moodle.

Major Project (all elements required)
Students will spend the last four weeks of the semester completing a two-part project that will require them to demonstrate various important interdisciplinary communication skills. Part 1 is a 5-7 page research paper on an interdisciplinary topic. Part 2 is narrated PowerPoint presentation designed to accompany the paper. Each part of the project will have its own assignment sheet, grading rubric, and model(s). Three progress reports are also required during the Major Project until. All of these elements (the 5-7 page research paper, the accompanying PowerPoint presentation, and the three progress reports) are required elements of the course. You cannot pass the course without completing all of these elements. If you do not complete all elements of the Major project, you will receive an F or an I (incomplete) in the course at the instructor’s discretion.

The purpose of the Major Project is to give you practice with the following crucial interdisciplinary writing and communication skills:

- Writing a sustained (i.e., somewhat lengthy) essay in support of a clearly-stated main idea about an interdisciplinary topic that you will choose from a list of topics.
- Developing that idea fully with information from outside sources representing multiple academic disciplines.
- Demonstrating the value of an interdisciplinary approach to an issue or problem.
- Producing an oral/visual presentation to summarize and accompany the essay. PLEASE NOTE: For the oral/visual presentation, you will be required to produce a PowerPoint presentation, so you must own or have access to a computer with PowerPoint. You must also record narrations in your own voice for each screen of the PowerPoint, so you must have or have access to a microphone capable of recording these narrations.

IMPORTANT: Any student who fails to turn in any element of the Major Project will receive a grade of F or I (incomplete) at the instructor’s discretion. You must complete all elements of the project in order to pass this course.

Final Test
The final test for the course will be cumulative, meaning it will cover all readings, PowerPoints, and other material covered during the course. The test will consist of multiple choice, short essay, and longer essay questions. A review PowerPoint will be available on Moodle.
Discussion Forum Postings

Students are required to participate thoughtfully and appropriately in six separate Discussion Forums during the semester. You must respond to one of the Discussion Forum topics for each Discussion Forum period with an original post and then reply to at least one other student’s posting during each period. A separate assignment sheet for this requirement is available on Moodle. That sheet also explains grading criteria for both original postings and reply posts to the Discussion Forum.

Course Introduction Requirements

There are three course introduction assignments due during the first week of the course:

- **Test Assignment for TurnItIn**: Write and upload to the test assignment on TurnItIn one paragraph saved in .doc or .docx format. In the paragraph, describe what you would like to get out of this course. If you have trouble with submitting to TurnItIn or with saving a document as a .doc or .docx file, you should visit Student Computing Services in Kearns 113 during the first week of class for assistance.

- **Syllabus Quiz**: Take the syllabus quiz on Moodle. This quiz will help you become familiar with the syllabus and the requirements for the course. Also, by taking the quiz, you’ll learn how to access and take quizzes on Moodle if you haven’t done so before. If you have trouble accessing or taking the quiz, you should visit Student Computing Services in Kearns 113 during the first week of class for assistance. You may retake this quiz as many times as you want to before the deadline for completing the quiz.

- **Personal Introduction**: Write and submit to the Discussion Forum a brief description of yourself for the teacher and other students to read. Please share only information that you are comfortable sharing and which would be considered appropriate in a public forum. This assignment not only allows you to start getting to know your classmates, but demonstrates that you can access and use the Discussion Forum feature on Moodle. If you have trouble accessing or posting to the Discussion Forum, you should visit Student Computing Services in Kearns 113 during the first week of class for assistance.

The deadline for submitting each of the above requirements is listed in the course schedule.

Online Communication and Decorum Guidelines

This online course requires students to interact with each and with the instructor through the Discussion Forums in each unit, the Class Questions forum, e-mail, and/or other means for various purposes related to this course. In any such interactions and communications during this course, students are expected to follow these guidelines:

- Be polite and respectful in all communication with other students and with the instructor. Demonstrate sensitivity toward others’ feelings. You may disagree with or comment on another person’s ideas without being rude or criticizing/attacking someone else on a personal level. Show respect when you communicate with others. Specifically, this guideline means:
  - Avoid name-calling or making comments that are intended to belittle, shame, or embarrass someone else.
  - Make no comments about the race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, or religious beliefs of another person.
  - Do not use graphic, threatening, profane, lewd, or otherwise inappropriate language.

**VERY IMPORTANT**: Students who do not follow the above ground rules may be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and possible disciplinary action.
• Check Moodle frequently (at least twice per week) for posts, e-mails, and other such communications related to this course.
• Respond (if necessary or if requested) to any communications from the instructor promptly and/or by any deadline given by the instructor.
• Read all messages closely and completely before responding to be sure you have understood the sender’s message.
• In this and all online courses, refer to the instructor by his or her proper title and last name (Dr. _____, Mr. _____, Ms.____, Professor_____) unless you are specifically asked to use a different form of address.

Computer Issues
In order to succeed in this class, you must be able to access and use the following:
• **POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS with AUDIO NARRATIONS:** As a substitute for classroom lectures and presentations by the teacher, this course will include narrated PowerPoint presentations. Most will be approximately 20-40 minutes in length, but some may be longer or shorter. Please note that you will also be required to produce your own narrated PowerPoint for the oral/visual presentation requirement described above, so you will need to have or have access to a microphone capable of recording your narrations onto the PowerPoint.
• **WORD PROCESSING SOFTWARE that can SAVE A DOCUMENT in .DOC or .DOCX FORMAT:** No other formats (.wps, .pdf, etc.) will be accepted.
• **.PDF READER:** You must be able to read .pdf documents.
• **RELIABLE INTERNET ACCESS:** Poor or unreliable access to the internet from your home is not an excuse for missing deadlines, assignments, or communications from the instructor. Maintenance of your access to the internet at home is your own responsibility. On-campus access to the internet is extremely reliable. In the very rare case of the CCU network or the Moodle server being down long enough to interfere with class activities, adjustments may be made at the instructor’s discretion after verifying such outages with CCU Computing Services and/or the Moodle administrator.
• **VARIOUS KINDS OF INTERNET MATERIALS:** Such materials include, but are not necessarily limited to .doc/docx documents, .pdf documents, web pages, online videos and pictures, slideshows, YouTube videos, or other materials that you may be asked to access during the course.
• **MOODLE:** You must be able to access and use all relevant features of Moodle, including the grade book, Discussion Forum, TurnItIn, and quiz features.

Students are responsible for updating their computers if necessary in order to access these and other online materials on a compatible computer. Computer incompatibility issues are not an acceptable excuse for not accessing online course materials or for missing deadlines.

If you have any trouble with accessing or using any of the materials or features listed above, it is your responsibility to see Student Computing Services in Kearns 113 or seek other appropriate assistance as soon as possible. Please make sure that computer compatibility issues do not hinder your ability to succeed in this class.

Attendance
Attendance in an online course is just as important as in a conventional classroom course. Every missing writing exercise, major project, assignment, exam, quiz, Discussion Forum posting, or week-one class participation requirement will count not only as a zero but as an absence. There are 22 total graded assignments during the course (a two-part major project, a final exam, five quizzes, five writing exercises, six Discussion Forum postings, and three week-one
requirements). The student handbook states that an instructor may assign a failing grade for any student who misses more than 25% of class meetings. In this online course, therefore, you are subject to a grade of F or I (incomplete) at the instructor’s discretion if you fail to complete six (6) or more of the assignments listed above.

Please also note that this syllabus also states that you will receive either an F or I at the instructor’s discretion for failure to complete either part of the Major Project.

Course Policies

- A textbook is required in this course. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain the textbook at the beginning of the course and keep it throughout the course. Students who fail to purchase the textbook will NOT receive any leniency on quizzes, writing assignments, or other course requirements relating to the textbooks.

- All written assignments must be turned in through TurnItIn (on Moodle) in .docx or .doc format. E-mailing, turning them in on paper to the professor, and other methods of submission are not acceptable substitutes.

- Schedule and syllabus updates may be made from time to time. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor Moodle and CCU e-mail to be aware of such changes. Failure to do so does not constitute an acceptable excuse for late assignment submissions or for any other issues resulting from being unaware of changes to the schedule or syllabus.

- Writing assignments must be submitted to TurnItIn in .doc or .docx format. Late penalties will apply to assignments not turned in according to this guideline. Other formats are unacceptable. Assignments turned in by e-mail or other means will not be accepted.

- All TurnItIn due dates are listed on the syllabus, but are subject to change with notice (by e-mail and/or Moodle announcement). Assignments are normally due to TurnItIn by 11:59 PM on the date listed. Late penalties will apply after 11:59 PM on the due dates.

- A late penalty of 10 points per day late will apply to any assignment turned in to TurnItIn after 11:59 PM on the due date (according to the clock on the CCU Moodle server).

- It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with Moodle, including the TurnItIn interface, and to seek assistance from Student Computing Services in Kearns 113 for help with any computing issues.

- Online quizzes may not be taken late or retaken. Each quiz will be open online for approximately one week. Plan to take your quiz during this time window. Excuses for missing a quiz will not normally be granted. In the very rare case that an excuse is granted, the student will be exempt from that quiz (rather than being allowed to take the quiz late). Excused quizzes will count neither for nor against the student.

- Computer issues of any sort do not by themselves constitute excuses for late or missing work. Please see Student Computing Services in Kearns 113 if you have any compatibility or other computer issues. Macintosh users in particular are strongly advised to see Student Computing Services for any compatibility issues. The people in this office can help you deal with these issues, but you will need to seek their help.

- I plan to be available in my office (Kearns 102-A) during published office hours. However, these hours are subject to change. I will attempt to notify students of any change to these hours as soon as possible through some combination of e-mail, Moodle announcement, and/or a note on my office door. It is the student’s responsibility to check for and be aware of these changes.

- Students may make an appointment with me for an in-office visit. These appointments do not necessarily have to fall within the instructor’s scheduled office hours.

- I cannot simply “look over” writing assignments for you prior to the due date. However, I would be more than willing to answer specific questions about your written assignments while you are working on them.
• I will update the online grade book as often as I can. However, your grades may not always be updated with the most current information. In most cases, grades will be updated weekly, but longer gaps between grade book updates are possible.
• Students will receive grades on assignments via Moodle or by e-mail in the form of grading rubric sheets that may or may not include additional comments from the instructor.
• Any student who fails to turn in either part of the Major Project will receive a grade of F or I (incomplete) at the instructor’s discretion. You must complete both parts of the project in order to pass this course.

**Grading Scale (for final course grade):**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90.0-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86.0-89.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.0-85.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.0-79.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.0-75.9</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>66.0-69.9</td>
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<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59.9</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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**Academic Honesty (from the Code of Student Conduct)**
The CCU academic integrity code prohibits all of the following:

1. Plagiarism, cheating and all other forms of academic dishonesty
   a. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:
      (i) borrowing words, sentences, ideas, conclusions, examples and/or organization of an assignment without proper acknowledgment from a source (for example, a book, article, electronic documents or another student’s paper);
      (ii) submitting another person’s work in place of his/her own;
      (iii) allowing someone else to revise, correct or edit an assignment without explicit permission of the instructor;
      (iv) submitting work without proper acknowledgment from commercial firms, websites, fraternity or sorority files or any other outside sources, whether purchased or not;
      (v) allowing another person to substitute for them any part of a course for them, including quizzes, tests and final examinations;
      (vi) submitting any written assignments done with the assistance of another without the explicit permission of the instructor;
      (vii) submitting work that was originally prepared for another class without the explicit permission of the instructor;
      (viii) knowingly aiding another student who is engaged in plagiarism.
   b. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following:
      (i) using unauthorized information, materials or assistance of any kind for an assignment, quiz, test or final examination;
      (ii) knowingly aiding another student who is engaged in cheating.

2. Furnishing false information to any University official, faculty member or University office to obtain academic advantage.

3. Forging, altering or misusing any University document or record to obtain academic advantage.

Students who commit any of the above infractions may receive an FX in the course and be formally reported to the Academic Integrity Committee.

**Writing Center**

- Kearns 205
- (843) 349-2937

Students are strongly encouraged to visit the Writing Center for an appointment while working on writing assignments. Please call ahead for an appointment because the Writing Center is often quite busy. Walk-in students will often have to wait or may not find a tutor to work with at all.
**Students with Disabilities**
Coastal Carolina University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973/Section 504, will provide reasonable accommodations for eligible students with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please see me privately and seek assistance directly from the Office of Disability Services. You are responsible for initiating arrangements for accommodations for tests and other assignments in collaboration with the Office of Disability Services.

**Course Schedule (subject to change with notice)**

COURSE INTRODUCTION
(MARCH 12-14)

- Read the course syllabus and other documents in the syllabus and other documents folder. (Hint: This is your chance to ask questions about the course and/or drop the course if you have any concerns.)
- View PowerPoint 1—“Meet the Teacher.” (This PowerPoint is narrated. Please use speakers or headphones to listen. YouTube version with closed captioning is available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djpOUXXcSmI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djpOUXXcSmI).)
- View PowerPoint 2—“Course Introduction.” This PowerPoint is narrated. Please use speakers of headphones to listen. A script in PDF format is available on Moodle.
- Write and upload test assignment in .doc or .docx format (a one-paragraph description of what you would like get out of this course) to the assignment link on TurnItIn. (DEADLINE: 11:59 PM EASTERN TIME on Wednesday, March 14. Failure to submit by the deadline will deduct ten points from your class participation grade for the semester.)
- Take syllabus quiz on Moodle. (DEADLINE: 11:59 PM EASTERN TIME on Wednesday, March 14. Failure to submit by the deadline will deduct ten points from your class participation grade for the semester.)
- Upload brief personal introduction to Discussion Forum. (DEADLINE: 11:59 PM EASTERN TIME on Wednesday, March 14. Failure to submit an acceptable personal introduction by the deadline will deduct ten points from your class participation grade for the semester.)
- IMPORTANT: See Student Computing Services in Kearns 113 or contact Student Computing Services at [http://www.coastal.edu/services/scs/](http://www.coastal.edu/services/scs/) (843-349-2908) if you have any trouble taking the quiz or accessing the Discussion Forum, TurnItIn, and/or other materials on the Moodle site.
- IMPORTANT: Obtain a copy of the textbook for the course by the end of the first week of the course.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The three course introduction requirements are measures of attendance. After week one, the instructor is required to report students who do not attend. If you are reported for non-attendance, you will be dropped from the course for non-attendance.
UNIT 1: ACADEMIC WRITING AND THINKING
(March 15-21)

- Read pages 1-18, from Chapter 1 (“Academic Writing across the Disciplines”) in Thonney text.
- View PowerPoint 3—“Disciplinary Thinking/Interdisciplinary Thinking.” (This PowerPoint is narrated. Please use speakers or headphones to listen. YouTube version with closed captioning is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfa6I5hO-ZM.)
- View PowerPoint 4: Chapter 1 Concepts.
- Read pages 18-32, paired readings section of Chapter 1 (“Academic Writing across the Disciplines”) in Thonney text.
- View PowerPoint 5: Chapter 1 Paired Readings.
- View PowerPoint 6: Writing Summary and Analysis.
- Read assignment sheet, model, and grading rubric for Writing Exercise #1.
- Complete Writing Exercise #1.
- Submit original post to Discussion Forum #1. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Sunday, March 18.
- Submit response post to Discussion Forum #1. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Tuesday, March 20.

UNIT 2: ACADEMIC READING
(March 22-28)

- Read pages 33-58, from Chapter 2 (“Strategies for Reading Academic Writing”).
- View PowerPoint 7: Chapter 2 Concepts. (Not narrated.)
- Read pages 59-80, paired readings section of Chapter 2 (“Strategies for Reading Academic Writing”).
- View PowerPoint 8: Chapter 2 Paired Readings.
- View PowerPoint 9: Reading and Note-Taking Strategies.
- Read assignment sheet, model, and grading rubric for Writing Exercise #2.
- Complete Writing Exercise #2.
- Submit original post to Discussion Forum #2. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Sunday, March 25.
- Submit response post to Discussion Forum #2. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Tuesday, March 27.
UNIT 3: ARGUMENTATION
(March 29-April 4)

- Read pages 131-159, from Chapter 4 (“Writing Academic Arguments”).
- View PowerPoint 10: Chapter 4 Concepts. (Not narrated.)
- Read pages 160-187, paired readings section of Chapter 4 (“Writing Academic Arguments”).
- View PowerPoint 11: Chapter 4 Paired Readings. (Not narrated.)
- View PowerPoint 12: Writing an Argument. (Not narrated.)
- Read assignment sheet, model, and grading rubric for Writing Exercise #3.
- Complete Writing Exercise #3.
- Submit original post to Discussion Forum #3. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Sunday, April 1.
- Submit response post to Discussion Forum #3. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Tuesday, April 3.
- Submit Writing Exercise #3. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, April 4.

UNIT 4: USING SOURCE MATERIALS
(April 5-11)

- Read pages 302-328, from Chapter 8 (“Integrating Source Material into Academic Writing”) in Thonney text.
- View PowerPoint 13: Chapter 8 Concepts.
- Read pages 328-354, paired readings section of Chapter 8 (“Integrating Source Material into Academic Writing”) in Thonney text.
- View PowerPoint 14: Chapter 8 Paired Readings.
- View PowerPoint 15: Incorporating Quotations and Paraphrases.
- Read assignment sheet, model, and grading rubric for Writing Exercise #4.
- Complete Writing Exercise #4.
- Submit original post to Discussion Forum #4. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Sunday, April 8.
- Submit response post to Discussion Forum #4. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Tuesday, April 10.
- Submit Writing Exercise #4. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, April 11.
UNIT 5: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
(April 12-18)

- Read pages 355-378, from Chapter 9 (“Writing a Synthesis Paper”) in Thonney text.
- View PowerPoint 16: Chapter 9 Concepts.
- Read pages 188-206, from Chapter 5 (“Visual Rhetoric in Academic Arguments”) in Thonney text.
- View PowerPoint 17: Chapter 5 Concepts.
- Read assignment sheet, model, and grading rubric for Writing Exercise #5.
- Complete Writing Exercise #5.
- Submit original post to Discussion Forum #5. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Sunday, April 15.
- Submit response post to Discussion Forum #5. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Tuesday, April 17.
- Submit Writing Exercise #5. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, April 18.

UNIT 6: FINAL PROJECT/FINAL EXAM
(April 19-May 3)

April 19-25
- Read Final Project assignment sheet, models, and grading rubrics (in Final Project Materials folder on Moodle).
- Read Topic Choices sheet (in Final Project Materials folder on Moodle).
- View PowerPoint 19: Final Project Overview.
- Read assignment sheets, models, and grading rubrics for Progress Reports 1, 2, and 3.
- Begin working on Final Project.
- Complete Progress Reports 1 and 2.
- Submit original post to Discussion Forum #6. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Sunday, April 22.
- Submit response post to Discussion Forum #6. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Tuesday, April 24.
- Submit Progress Report 2 on Final Project. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, April 25

April 26-May 3
- Complete Progress Report 3.
- View PowerPoint 20: Final Test Review.
- Complete the Final Project.
- Review course material in preparation for Final Test.
- Submit Progress Report 3 on Final Project. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Friday, April 27.
- SUBMIT FINAL PROJECT. Deadline: 11:59 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, May 2.