Focus: Exploring Interdisciplinarity

Su White

http://www.edshare.soton.ac.uk/1336
What/how do we want you to learn?

Always go back to the syllabus.
Objectives

• give students experience of working in a team and of the problems of communication;
• consolidate and integrate the techniques and concepts introduced in earlier courses.

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Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed the module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

Ø A1. the issues surrounding navigating the languages of different disciplines;
Ø A2. case studies in the application of interdisciplinary approaches to real-world problems;
Ø A3. methods for constructing arguments from multidisciplinary perspectives;
Ø A4. critical analysis in an interdisciplinary setting;
Ø A5. teamwork and time management.

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Having successfully completed the module, you will be able to:

Ø B1. prepare an argument from a multi-disciplinary perspective for a given problem;
Ø B2. critically evaluate arguments and weigh their merits;
Ø B3. work effectively in a group to deliver a targeted report;
Ø B4. appreciate the interdependence and conflict inherent in a group project.

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Subject Specific Skills

Having successfully completed the module, you will be able to:

Ø C1. synthesise disciplinary perspectives to inform a public understanding of the web.

Employability/Transferable/Key Skills

Having successfully completed the module, you will be able to:

Ø D1. handle some of the conflict inherent in a group project;
Ø D2. make critical judgements of your own and other peoples work;
Ø D3. take responsibility for scheduling and running group meetings.

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The task is a vehicle
• But always check
  back to the
  syllabus
• …
  and the
  assessment criteria
• Go to the handin
• Check and plan
• PS remember it’s a
  group project!!

https://secure.ecs.soton.ac.uk/noteswiki/w/WEBS2002/Project_Specification

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**Introduction**

In this module, you’ll work in small teams on a web science problem that is close to current research. In particular, you will be given a dataset collected from the web (available here) and you will be responsible for defining a research question and a hypothesis which you will then test.

More specifically, we will provide you with a sample of data from the Public website which contains information on photographs taken by individuals. In particular, this sample contains any photographs that have geographic locations attached (although these are not necessarily accurate). In the introduction lecture, we will show you some of the analysis that you can do with this data, and discuss some of the problems in your group you will then brainstorm ideas for an expert you wish to research during the project. You’ll then apply the Scientific Method to to your research area.

**Aims**

The aims of this module are two-fold:

1. To build and establish experience of working in a team
2. To consolidate and integrate learning and concepts learned in previous modules by applying your knowledge and skills to a practical web science task.

**Groups**

We’ve pre-defined the groups you’ll work in as follows:

**Team Alpha**

- Alex Armstrong
- Eleanor Hamilton
- Olwen Jones

**Team Bravo**

- Aine McDonnell-Scott
- Thomas Logan
- Amir Tavli

**Effort**

This module is 100% coursework, which equates to 150 hours of effort each (including the lectures and tutorials). Your overall mark will be based on both your individual performance (40%), and your team performance (60%). More details can be found below.

The usual rules regarding group coursework and academic integrity apply.

**Requirements**

In your teams you need to:

1. Choose a research topic that uses the data we’ve provided (note you are allowed to add more/different data if you think you need it).
2. Perform a literature survey of your research area to better understand it.
3. Identify the hypothesis that you’ll test.
What we expect you to do

1. DEFINE problems, issues, topics or questions that warrant interdisciplinary examination

2. PRESENT a clear rationale for taking interdisciplinary approach including the advantages to be gained

3. IDENTIFY relevant disciplines

4. CONDUCT a literature review (what is known on the topic from each of the disciplines)

5. DEVELOP a command of each relevant discipline set out the analytical structure central to each discipline, identify key underlying assumptions, and methods of evaluation.

6. STUDY the problem and generate insights including predictions from each of the relevant disciplines in isolation!!

7. IDENTIFY conflicts between and/or areas of complementary between the insights offered from each discipline

8. CREATE common ground by developing a cohesive framework of analysis that incorporates insights from the relevant disciplines in a systematic manner

9. COMBINE disciplinary insights to construct new more integrated understanding of the problem

Repko & Welch 2005
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The flow of activities

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Class exercise:

Individually
• Look at the posters (via slideshow)
• Identify the (possible) contributory disciplines

In Pairs
• Discuss your analysis
• Expand the list of contributory views

Share
• In a round
• Tell the class what you learnt
• Comment on the titles – are they useful? – did you understand them?

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While you are looking at the posters go by
Use them to help you think your own groups' ideas
Reflect on them
Posters are available in a slide set
http://www.edshare.soton.ac.uk/13359/
Or you can look at them on the web site pdf downloads available
http://dtc.webscience.ecs.soton.ac.uk/people-and-partners/list-of-students/student-research-interests/web-science-posters/
Prepare yourself
• Watch and read
• You will get an email from me as a reminder
• Watch the YouTube videos
• Read one of the papers in the Mendeley group
• Be ready for discussions of – Interdisciplinarity – research practice

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