WEBS2002 Interdisciplinary Project

Introduction Exploring Interdisciplinarity

Su White http://www.edshare.soton.ac.uk/13364/
First point of reference

https://secure.ecs.soton.ac.uk/module/1617/WEBS2002/31055/
What/how do we want you to learn?

Overview
This module is offered in the context of a multi-disciplinary programme. The purpose of the module is to allow students to understand the challenges and problems that come from trying to reconcile multiple disciplinary perspectives and value systems on a single problem. This module draws together all the multidisciplinary content and methodologies that they have engaged with, and helps them to understand how to marshall them in a practical, commercial or political context. In addition, the module will:

• 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.

Module Details
Title: Interdisciplinary Group Project
Code: WEBS2002
Credits: 7.5 ECTS credits
Taught in: Semester 1

Immediate prerequisites
No prerequisites

Aims and Objectives
Knowledge and Understanding
Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

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

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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.
Knowledge and Understanding

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

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

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

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

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

• 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:

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

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The flow of activities

- Problem
- Disciplinary insights
- Integration
- Understanding

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Class exercise:

Individually
- Look at the posters
- 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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Quick preview

- Why 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/

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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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