



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: IS

Course and Section #: I 03

Course Title: Integrated Studies: Capstone II

Credits: 3

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to write or create and defend an interdisciplinary undergraduate thesis, which is often, but not always, a major research paper with scholarly citations.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Joseph Vogel

Student Learning Outcomes

- Create and defend an interdisciplinary undergraduate thesis
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Course Materials and Texts

- NA
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Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Course Mode: Face-to-Face with Online Components

I will hold regularly scheduled in-class lectures. Online components via Canvas will augment the course. This course has regular due dates and must be completed within the term you are registered. You are expected to attend classes (or watch after posted on Canvas) each week.

Description of how course works:

Canvas is where content, grades, and communications will reside for this course.

I. Purpose of the Course and Important Documents

The purpose of this course is to write or create and defend an interdisciplinary undergraduate thesis, which is often, but not always, a major research paper with scholarly citations.

The key documents needed for this course are on the Integrated Studies website under “Senior Thesis Resources”: www.uvu.edu/is/

II. Plan Ahead and Take the Schedule Into Account

If you want to finish your thesis this semester, you need to begin immediately.

Please note that once you have turned in a draft paper, your advisors will require one or two weeks to read and comment on it. Plan accordingly. Get your drafts in early and get to work on revisions immediately upon receiving comments.

III. Revise and Edit Your Work *Before* Turning It In; Consult the Writing Center

Your interdisciplinary advisor is here to help you to construct an analytically sound, logically ordered, interdisciplinary scholarly essay or project. This involves helping you to think through your topic and to integrate your disciplines. It does not involve line editing poor and/or hastily written work. Consult the writing center early on and use them often.

Please note that academic dishonesty will severely undermine our joint project. You are expected to cite all of your sources. Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty will be grounds for failing the course, or for such other sanctions as may be appropriate. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, the Writing Center has information available. Consult their website <<https://www.uvu.edu/writingcenter/>>.

IV. Working With Your Advisors

Each of your three advisors is here to help you. Take advantage of that help. Visit each of your advisors as early in the course as you can and keep in close contact as you progress. **Please note that your thesis proposal *must* already be approved by all three advisors.**

Feel free to consult with your IS advisor often – weekly or every time you have a question or need reassurance or are looking for responses to something you have written.

There are **three mandatory meetings** with your two disciplinary advisors. You will need to schedule these and to provide your interdisciplinary advisor with email reports on the advice given to you. Failure to complete this requirement will be grounds for failing the course. **Be sure to give each disciplinary**

advisor a copy of this syllabus and of the Rights & Responsibilities document at your next meeting with them.

You will be allowed to proceed to a thesis defense only after you have submitted a satisfactory paper or project. This means satisfying each of your advisors regarding the quality of your work, the soundness of your research, and the integration of your disciplines.

This is a difficult but achievable goal. Get started early. Stay in touch with all three of your advisors. Meet the deadlines and do quality work. Above all, enjoy this unique opportunity to design, pursue, and have faculty assist you with an intellectual project that matters to you

For this **three (3) credit-hour** course students should expect to spend up to **9+ hours a week** (if on a block schedule 18+ hours) completing course activities.

Attendance

You are expected to regularly attend class and participate in all activities. Absence from class makes it extremely difficult to be a successful student.

Student Responsibilities:

- *Start class the first week of the term.*
- ***Be accountable by setting aside regular time each week to complete course activities and assignments on time as noted per the due dates.***
- *Learn how to use Canvas including communication tools (e.g. discussion, Canvas inbox, etc.). If you have technology-related problems contact the [Service DeskLinks to an external site.](#)*
- *Abide by ethical standards. Your work must be your own.*
- *Contact your instructor as early as possible if an emergency arises. Do NOT wait until the last minute to ask for an extension.*

Instructor Responsibilities:

- *Respond to emails within ONE business day. If multiple emails are received regarding the same question or concern, they may be responded to with an announcement to the entire class.*
- *Provide timely, meaningful and constructive feedback on assignments.*
- *Facilitate an effective learning experience.*
- *Refer students to appropriate services for issues that are non-course content specific. For instance, technical issue, writing labs, accessibility services, etc.*
- *Mentor students through the course.*

Problem Resolution:

Problems or concerns should be addressed to me first (in most situations). If we are unable to resolve concerns together you may contact Bryan Eldredge, Chair of the Department of Languages and Cultures at eldredbr@uvu.edu

Student Resources

[Student Care WebpageLinks to an external site.](#)

Before we start, please be aware that UVU has two webpages you should note. The first is the Student Care page. I encourage you to visit it so you are familiar with the many resources available to students. If your basic needs are not being met, or if life issues are causing you stress and distracting you from your studies, you will not be able to maximize your efforts to educate yourself. The resources available here include food, health, housing, and safety. And watch out for others who might need help but whom might not know these resources exist. If you or anyone you know needs help, you can email care@uvu.edu for assistance.

[Student Success WebpageLinks to an external site.](#)

The second is the Student Success page. Here you find find resources aimed at helping you in all sorts of ways ranging from passing your next test, paying for college, and finding a community on campus.

Essential Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of your coursework at Utah Valley University you should have acquired confidence and proficiency in the following areas:

1. Integrated & Applied Learning
2. Intellectual Practical Skills
3. People of Integrity
4. Professional Competency
5. Stewards of Place
6. Knowledge Foundation

Learn more about [UVU's Essential Learning OutcomesLinks to an external site.](#)

Grading Scale:

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Grade	Percent
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86

B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	0-59

Assignment Categories

Activity	Points
Midterm	20%
Formal Paper	30%
Reading responses	20%
Final	30%

Late Work Statement:

The best way to be successful in this course is to submit all assignments by their due date. All assignments are available from the beginning of the term.

In the event that you will not be able to meet a due date, contact your instructor as soon as possible. If you are unable to contact the instructor ahead of the due date, you will be expected to provide appropriate documentation such as a doctor's note to be allowed to turn in an assignment late.

Assignment and Assessment Descriptions

Assignments:

Formal Paper: see explanation on Canvas Due: **9 April (Wednesday) @ 2:30pm.**

Online assignments (quizzes and discussions): Discussions and quizzes will be on Canvas. These assignments are to either facilitate interactions on a topic or to strengthen our understanding of a concept. Due: **Sunday before midnight.**

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

Impersonating you in classroom contexts. This means, as an example, using the tool to write your discussion posts.

Writing drafts of your academic essays.

Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or essays to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

It is important to understand both technology's strengths and limitations. AI is already proving its usefulness in brainstorming writing ideas, simplifying complex topics, and performing rudimentary research. AI is a tool with potential usefulness for writers. However, AI is also fraught with serious issues (ie. hallucinations). **It possesses accuracy problems while simultaneously sounding very confident about its incorrectness. It frequently generates fake citations and quotations.** It cannot understand the complexities and contexts of human communication. Finally, the way AI is trained on other texts poses several ethical questions about copyright and intellectual theft of property (along with uncritically inheriting the biases of the texts it is trained on).

To be clear, copying the exact wording of an AI chatbot is considered plagiarism and means that a student will be held accountable for violating academic integrity. Although many citation guides are already presenting ways to properly use and cite AI, I do not currently believe that citing AI in your work is in line with the standards of academic writing that value knowing the exact author(s) or sources that informed your writing.

If you are suspected of plagiarism, the first step will always be a conversation with me (in-person or via Teams). If the infraction is very minor or clearly unintentional, there may be no sanctions at all. However, a lowered grade and/or the chance to revise the paper may also be possible. In more serious cases, the assignment may receive an automatic zero.

The most serious infractions may lead to me filing an incident report with the Student Conduct office. In this scenario, you have the right to appeal the report with the department chair. Regardless of the chair's decision, the incident report remains a part of your permanent record. If you are unhappy with the chair's ruling, you then have the right to file an appeal with the dean. The dean's decision on the matter will be final.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:

All work must be original, and each student is expected to uphold the standards of academic honesty. Presenting the work of another as your own, whether through direct copying, plagiarism, forgery, cheating, unintended paraphrasing, and/or inadequate citation practices constitutes plagiarism.

If you do not know how to give credit where it is due, please see me. An assignment that is plagiarized in whole or in part will receive a failing grade, the student producing it will receive a failing grade, and the assignment will be turned over to the administrative supervisors to determine further action. Please remember that plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from the university. Any violation of this code will be vigorously pursued. You can find UVU's plagiarism policy [here](#)Links to an external site..

Discussions:

Found on Canvas and offered to encourage deeper thought about course content. Discussions will be opportunities to explore topics together as a class. Posts to the discussion should add significantly to the conversation and support your point of view. It is okay to disagree in a discussion. In fact much learning happens when we disagree. However we need to be respectful and keep our online classroom a safe place to learn.

Assessments:

Midterm: Short essay questions, based on materials from readings and lectures: **26 February (Wednesday) in-class**

Final: Short essay questions, based on materials from readings and lectures: **28 April (Monday) in-class, 1:00-2:50**

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

NA

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Schedule

January 8 and the following week

Get started on your thesis. Your proposal is the framework, but it is now time to turn that plan into an actual project.

I want to hear from you weekly with either an email or a face-to-face meeting with some progress report.

Advisory Meeting #1 – Make Appointments Concerning Research

As soon as possible, make an appointment to meet with your disciplinary advisors. At this point you will be seeking general guidance on the scholarly materials available to you that will assist you in proving (or disproving) your thesis. You should report to your disciplinary advisors the research that you have done to date and seek specific advice on what additional books, articles, manuscripts, or other research materials may be relevant to your thesis from their discipline. You should also ask each advisor for such other advice as they may wish to give to you at this juncture.

Note: You should take notes on what advice you were given by them so that you can provide your IS advisor with an accurate and full report.

22 January Deadline for Advisory Meeting Report #1

By this date, you should have met with your disciplinary advisors. Email your IS advisor a report, summarizing the advice given to you and the actions you are taking to carry out that advice.

Continue to work on your first draft and see your advisors as needed.

February 19 First Full Draft Due; Advisory Meeting #2 - Make Appointments

Your first draft is due today. This is to *be a good first draft, not a ‘rough’ draft*. You should complete it with sufficient time to edit and revise it and to take it to the writing center if necessary.

Provide a hard copy to each of your three advisors. Make an appointment to see each advisor within the next two weeks. You should allow each advisor at least a week to read and comment on your draft.

March 18 Deadline for Advisory Meeting Report #2

See your disciplinary advisors before this date and begin revisions of your thesis. Send your IS advisor an email confirming that you have met with both of your disciplinary advisors, summarizing the advice given to you with regard to your first draft and the actions you are taking to carry out that advice.

April 1 Final Draft Due

Turn in the final draft. Work toward this due date knowing that you may need an additional week or so. Quality is more important than an absolutely firm due date, so we will work together to make sure you finish with a thesis you are proud of.

Defending Your Thesis

Once all three advisors approve the thesis, the thesis defense needs to be scheduled. Your IS advisor will let you know whether and when you should attempt to schedule a defense. If you are not prepared to defend by the end of the semester, we may decide to assign a grade of “incomplete,” giving you extra time to finish. Incompletes will not be given except in extraordinary circumstances, and then only when the

student has fully met the schedule prior to the event justifying a departure. Students who have rigorously met with their advisors and who have timely and satisfactorily submitted all reports of meetings with advisors will have priority in the scheduling of defenses.

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

Statement on AI:

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are skills that must be developed over time. Yet, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Checking grammar, mechanics and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts. This means, as an example, using the tool to write your discussion posts.
- Writing drafts of your film review.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or essays to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

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The most serious infractions may lead to me filing an incident report with the Student Conduct office. In this scenario, you have the right to appeal the report with the department chair. Regardless of the chair's decision, the incident report remains a part of your permanent record. If you are unhappy with the chair's ruling, you then have the right to file an appeal with the dean. The dean's decision on the matter will be final.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that

produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.