IDST 499
Interdisciplinary Studies Capstone Experience

Course Description
This is an independent study course for one semester hour credit requiring development of an integrative project. Students must make arrangements in advance of registration for supervision by a faculty member.

Course Content
As this is an independent study course, the content will vary. However, the student will be expected to develop, in consultation with the faculty supervisor, a culminating project for the BIS degree. The project is an opportunity for the student to integrate and apply learning from the broad area of emphasis, demonstrate critical thinking skills and provide evidence of effective written communication skills. It may be a research project, a review and synthesis of literature, a portfolio presentation or an internship with a written result.

Course Contract
When a faculty member agrees to supervise an individual’s IDST 499 project, the faculty member agrees to consult with the student to define objectives, responsibilities, and expected outcomes for the culminating project. While student expectations will vary, incorporated in the expectations should be evidence of integration of knowledge in the broad area of emphasis, demonstration of critical thinking skills, and evidence of effective written communication skills.

Course Grade
The course is a graded course. The student is expected to complete requirements for the course by the end of the semester in which the student is registered.

Course Registration Eligibility
IDST 499 is a restricted course for which staff in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies will issue course passes to students meeting the following criteria:

- Have an official degree program on file;
- Have satisfactorily completed the majority of courses shown on the undergraduate degree program;
- Have identified a faculty member with expertise in the student’s area of emphasis who is willing to supervise the student’s project; and
- Submitted at least a first draft of the IDST 499 Project Agreement contract with signatures of the faculty supervisor and the student.
Faculty Supervisor’s Responsibilities:

By agreeing to supervise a student’s project, the faculty member also agrees to:

• Develop a course contract in consultation with the student;
• Supervise and grade the student’s project in keeping with the general course content outlined above. An holistic sample scoring rubric approved by the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Advisory Committee is located on the University College website and is available for your use.
• Submit a grade by the published deadline to the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Tate Page Hall room 209.
• Provide a copy of the final project to the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies for assessment of the BIS program of study.

A small stipend is available for the full-time faculty member who is already teaching a full load for the semester in which the course is being supervised or for a part-time faculty member. So there is no misunderstanding about the amount of the stipend, please contact Dr. Ken Kuehn at the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at (270) 745-7007.

*Revised 9/2011