

**LIBS 400**

**Liberal Studies Senior Seminar  
Texas A&M University-Commerce, Spring 2018**

Instructor: Dr. Beth Shively  
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Meeting: ONLINE  
Office phone: 936-294-4650

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course provides each student in the Liberal Studies Program with opportunities for making connections among his or her concentration, support fields, other educational experiences, and possible careers. Must be taken in final semester.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES<sup>1</sup>:**

- to demonstrate the effective application of interdisciplinary scholarship and its theoretical underpinnings through designing and carrying out an independent research project.
- to demonstrate the academic skill of researching a topic from multiple disciplinary fields and to then use the findings to inform one’s project.
- to generate and effectively communicate scholarly material which is informed by critical thought and the student’s personal academic career.
- to communally engage in the process of assessment, critique, and refinement as applied to the work of not only the student, but of their classmates as well.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

*There are no required texts. However, students will access, read, and integrate scholarly sources into their final projects.*

**EVALUATION**

Discussion and Idea Board Participation: (3.75% x 8)	= 30%
Proposal	= 5%
Bibliography	= 5%
Annotated Bibliography:	= 10%
Abstract and Outline:	= 5%
Draft	= 10%
Peer Editing	= 5%
Revised Final Project	= 25%
Executive Summary	= 5%

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Unless there are unusual circumstances, late work will NOT be accepted. If you experience an emergency or life event (use your discretion) that will prevent you from meeting a deadline, please let me know ASAP, so we can work out a plan. In most cases, missed work will be due within two weeks.

**More detailed descriptions of other assignments will be posted on Learning Studio/eCollege.**

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct**

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<sup>1</sup> Course description and objectives from Dr. Brad Klypchak, Dept. of Liberal Studies, Texas A&M U-Commerce

Students are expected to know and understand the rules regarding academic misconduct and plagiarism. Sharing or accessing someone else's answers to exams or searching for answers on the internet during an exam constitutes academic misconduct. Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own. Always cite sources. If questions arise regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please ask. All cases of plagiarism and academic misconduct will be treated very seriously.

All coursework is to be an original work by the student and created specifically for fulfilling the requirements for this course. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another's work or ideas as one's own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. It is the student's responsibility to:

1. research and write their own papers
2. give proper credit through documentation when using words or ideas of others
3. rely on their own knowledge when taking tests
4. refuse to give another student the opportunity to be dishonest

**Any act of academic dishonesty will result in the automatic failure of the course** and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the university

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook).

### **ADA Statement**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so.

Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

### PLEASE NOTE

This senior seminar course is probably unlike others you have taken. There are no textbook readings, quizzes, or exams, but that does not mean you should fail to take this course seriously. The opposite is true. This course will require more creativity, initiative, organization, and time management skills than other courses. This is especially true since you are enrolled in an online version of the course. NOTE: There is a deliverable every week. These are designed to (1) make the project manageable (2) keep you on task and (3) protect the academic integrity of this course. Your work may build on work you did in LIBS 300, but otherwise must be original to the LIBS 300/400 sequence. **Keep up with the deliverables. If you miss more than three deliverables, you are at risk of failing the course, and the instructor reserves the right to require you make them up (for reduced or no credit) before moving forward.** Ask questions as you have them. Check eCollege/Learning Studio AT LEAST weekly. If something comes up, let me know right away. I look forward to sharing in this creative process with you.

Dr. Shively

### ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

<b><u>WORK WEEK</u></b>	<b><i>Work Description</i></b>
<b><u>START DATE</u></b>	

<b><u>WEEK 1</u></b>	<b><i>Introductions &amp; Syllabus Review</i></b>
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Jan. 16	Deliverable: Introduction Discussion Board Post, Due Jan. 21, 11:59 p.m.
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	Deliverable: Syllabus Review & Policy Agreement DB Post, Due Jan. 21, 11:59 p.m.
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<b><u>WEEK 2</u></b>	<b><i>Concentrations and Careers</i></b>
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Jan. 22	Deliverable: Concentrations and Careers DB Posts, Due Jan. 31, 11:59 p.m.
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<b><u>WEEK 3</u></b>	<b><i>Scholarly Source Examples</i></b>
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Jan. 29	Discussion Board Due: Examples DB Posts, Due Feb. 4, 11:59 p.m.
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<b><u>WEEK 4</u></b>	<b><i>Proposal Brainstorming</i></b>
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Feb. 5	Deliverable: Brainstorming and Feedback DB Posts, Due Feb. 11, 11:59 p.m.
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<b><u>WEEK 5</u></b>	<b><i>Project Proposal</i></b>
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Feb. 12	Deliverable: Project Proposal, Due Feb. 18, 11:59 p.m.
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<b><u>WEEK 6</u></b>	<b><i>Research Week</i></b>
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Feb. 19	Deliverable: Research Progress Report DB Posts, Due Feb. 25, 11:59 p.m.
<b><u>WEEK 7</u></b>	<b><i>Research Week 2/Bibliography</i></b>
Feb. 26	Deliverable: Bibliography of Scholarly Sources (Before Annotations), Due March 4, 11:59
<b><u>WEEK 8</u></b>	<b><i>Annotated Bibliography Work Week</i></b>
March 5	Deliverable: Annotated Bibliography Due March 11, 11:59 p.m.
<b><u>BREAK</u></b>	<b><i>Spring Break</i></b>
March 12	Spring Break
<b><u>WEEK 9</u></b>	<b><i>Abstract and Outline Work Week</i></b>
March 19	Deliverable: Project Abstract and Outline, Due March 25, 11:59 p.m.
<b><u>WEEK 10</u></b>	<b><i>Draft Writing Week</i></b>
March 26	Deliverable: Draft Writing Progress Report DB, Due April 1, 11:59 p.m.
<b><u>WEEK 11</u></b>	<b><i>Writing Work Week w/Progress Report</i></b>
April 2	Deliverable: 3-5 Page Draft, Due April 8, 11:59 p.m.
<b><u>WEEK 12</u></b>	<b><i>Peer Editing</i></b>
April 9	Deliverable (Peer Editing) Due April 15, 11:59 p.m.
<b><u>WEEK 13</u></b>	<b><i>Revisions Work Week</i></b>
April 16	Deliverable: Writing Progress Report DB, Due April 22, 11:59 p.m.
<b><u>WEEK 14</u></b>	<b><i>Revised Final Project</i></b>
April 23	Deliverable: Revised Final Project, Due April 29, 11:59 p.m.
<b><u>WEEK 15</u></b>	<b><i>Executive Summary Work Week</i></b>
April 30	Deliverable: Executive Summary, Due May 6, 11:59 p.m.
<b><u>FINALS WEEK</u></b>	<b><i>Finals Week</i></b>
May 7	No Additional Final Assignments Due