

Course Syllabus



Course	BIS 3320
Course Title	The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry
Professor	Dr. June Ann Jones
Term	Summer 2026 – 5 weeks - Session 1
Meetings	Asynchronous

Professor's Contact Information

Office Phone	972-883-2323
Office Location	Hoblitzelle Hall (HH) 2.130
Email Address	june.jones@utdallas.edu
Office Hours	Announced on eLearning and by appointment

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions

No prerequisites (This course is the upper-level writing requirement for all Interdisciplinary Studies students.)

Course Description

This course is concerned with the systematic study of science and the academic experience. Science is part of the search for knowledge and each approach to science contributes to the totality of knowledge. BIS3320 will assist students in understanding the pervasive influence of science in our culture and will increase the student's breadth of intellectual inquiry. In addition, the class is designed to assist the students in understanding the importance of clear communication, documentation, and the use of detailed information to support arguments.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to locate primary sources and evaluate the usefulness of each source based on the criteria discussed in class.
2. Students will be able to concisely paraphrase the findings of studies and properly document sources according to the guidelines set for the by the APA manual.
3. Students will be able to develop a thesis statement and write a paper that discusses the scientific studies that support their claim.
4. Students will be able to describe the differences and similarities between philosophical ideas and scientific facts and/or theories.

Required Texts

All readings will be made available for free on eLearning. Films will be accessible through digital platforms included in your student fees (i.e. Kanopy, Alexander Street, Films On Demand).

Assignments & Academic Calendar

[Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates]

*Please follow eLearning for the most up-to-date schedule.

	Topic/Plan of day	Reading/activity and related assignments (see due dates on eLearning)
Extra Credit: Synchronous Meet & Greet + Course Overview	Location: Teams Date: TBD	
Week 1 [Starts June 1]		
Lecture Videos: "Course Intro" + "Click on the Assignment Links!"	All Inquiry Begins in Wonder... + Introduction to the Methods of Scientific and Philosophical Thinking	Read: Alberts, B., Hopkin, K., & Roberts, K. (n.d.). <i>Why Trust Science: Essay</i> . Retrieved December 30, 2025, from https://whytrustscience.org.uk/essay/ Watch: <i>The Examined Life</i> (2008) Assignment: Personal Reflection (due Sunday by midnight) — (optional) " The Intersection of Science and Religion " (from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine) (optional) " Writing is Thinking " by Steven Mintz (UT Austin)
Lecture Videos: Resources @ UTD! & UTD Writing Center APA Presentation & Setting up your Annotated Bibliography with Zotero	Writing Workshop Finding Scholarly Sources, APA Formatting & Zotero Bootcamp Slides	Tutorial: Academic Writer Tutorial: Basics of Seventh Edition APA Style Watch: Cite While You Write with Zotero! Read: UTD Library Research Guide on Literature Reviews Explore: APA Style and Grammar Guide Explore: UTD Writing Center Website Assignments: Journal Article Discussion Post + APA Formatting Quizzes (both of them) (due Sunday by midnight) Make sure you have your UTD Microsoft365 account enabled and have installed Zotero (with the extension) by the end of the week.) — (optional) Research Paper Writing Workbook (p.2-7)

	<p>Required: Instructor Consultations</p> <p>Sign up for a 15 minute meeting here: Bookings page</p>	<p>All students are <u>required</u> (worth 5 points toward final grade) to meet on Teams with the instructor, to introduce themselves and check in about their proposed Research Paper topic. You must complete the Research Paper Proposal Form prior to meeting.</p>
<p>Lecture Videos: "Learning Styles" and "AI & AI"</p>	<p>Learning styles, Bloom's taxonomy, AI, and the "other AI..."</p> <p>Slides: learningstyles.utd.online.pdf</p>	<p>Explore: Choose a personality test (Myers-Briggs, StrengthsFinder, Big5, etc.) & take the Learning Styles quiz</p> <p>Complete the Learning Styles quiz at https://learningstylequiz.com/quiz/start</p> <p>Listen: Brené Brown's <i>Dare to Lead</i> podcast episode "Dr. Joy Buolamwini on Unmasking AI: My Mission to Protect What Is Human in a World of Machines"</p> <p>Watch: "AI, Ain't I A Woman? - Joy Buolamwini"</p> <p>Assignment: AI & AI Worksheet (due Sunday by midnight)</p>
<p>The Craft of Research: Writing Step by Step</p> <p>Topics: research questions, formatting, drafting, feedback, revising, editing</p>		
<p>WEEK 2 [Starts June 8]</p>		
<p>Lecture Videos: Topic Time! (Intro) & Anatomy of A Research Paper: To Start and Finish Strong (part 1) & (part 2)</p>	<p>Writing Workshop</p> <p>Topics, Questions, Thesis... ACTION!</p> <p>&</p> <p>Anatomy of A Research Paper: To Start and Finish Strong</p> <p>Slides</p>	<p><i>The Craft of Research</i> - PDF</p> <p>Ch.1: From Topics to Questions</p> <p>Ch.2: From Questions to a Problem</p> <p>Ch. 14 - Introductions and Conclusions (Context, Problem, Response) PDF</p> <p>Assignment: Paper Proposal (due Sunday by midnight)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>(optional) Research Paper Writing Workbook (p.2-5, and p.7-9)</p> <p>(optional) Anne Lamott, "Shitty First Drafts" and "Perfectionism"</p>

Lecture Video: " The Difference Between Your Annotated Bibliography & Your Literature Review "	Writing Workshop Literature Reviews & Annotated Bibliographies Watch: The Quickest Way to Write A First Class Literature Review	Read: "Writing A Literature Review" Read: Steps in the Literature Review Process (UT Austin) <i>The Craft of Research</i> Ch. 12 - Incorporating Sources Explore: APA Style and Grammar Guide Explore: UTD Writing Center Website Assignments: Annotated Bibliography (due Sunday by midnight) — (optional) Research Paper Writing Workbook (p.6-7)
Bonus Workshop!	"Practicing the Cite While Your Write Feature on Zotero/Word to Streamline Your Writing Process"	Resources: Click on "Writing Resources" tab for link to videos and tutorials
Week 3 [Starts June 15]		
Lecture Videos: Making Your Argument!	Making Your Argument + The Magic of Outlining Slides	<i>The Craft of Research</i> – PDF Ch. 5 - Making Good Arguments Explore: Mind Mapping Watch: Sherlock Holmes citing evidence for his claim! Assignment: Rough Draft of Final Paper (due Sunday by midnight) - It must be sent to your Peer Feedback partner <u>and</u> submitted to eLearning for grading) — (optional) Research Paper Writing Workbook (p.10-11)
Bonus Workshop!	"What is "baloney" and how can I avoid it? (i.e. How to avoid getting points off on my papers)"	(optional) "The Fine Art of Baloney Detection" by Carl Sagan See the Research Paper rubric at the end of Research Paper Writing Workbook or on the Assignment page.
Week 4 [Starts June 22]		
Lecture Video: " Why peer feedback? and How to Do It Well "	Peer Feedback & Revising Your Draft	Read: Find the Coaching in the Criticism , Sheila Heen and Douglas Stone Watch: How to Use Others' Feedback to Learn & Grow Assignment: Peer Feedback (due Sunday by midnight)
Extra Credit: Synchronous Peer Feedback Session	Location: Teams Date: TBD	

Week 5 [Starts June 29]	
<p>Writing Work Days</p> <p>(Optional) Instructor Consultations (Schedule on Bookings page)</p>	<p>Assignment: Research Paper (Final Draft) (due Tuesday, July 7 by midnight)</p> <p>—</p> <p>(optional) Extra Credit: Course Feedback Surveys</p> <p>***<u>All coursework is due by Tuesday, July 7 by midnight.</u> Unless you have prior approval to submit late work, all missing assignments will receive a 0 at that time, by default.***</p>

Course Policies

<p>Additional Information</p>	<p><i>Welcome!</i> Perhaps you are thinking, “Intellectual inquiry. What now?” While the topic may seem a bit intimidating at first glance, what we are really learning about in this course is something you already know how to do – think, write, and use your voice! This course has been designed to holistically address the topics at hand as well as enhance your personal intellectual journey. As your instructor, I am here to walk alongside you, as you build on your existing knowledge and skills to help succeed academically, professionally, and personally, at UTD and beyond! This course is designed to equip students with the basic skills to engage in asking well-developed questions and finding answers in a systematic and scholarly way. Don’t let the mystique of “research” put you off! You are already capable of pursuing information about a topic that interests you. So, let this course be an opportunity to learn about new approaches to help you be more successful at answering your questions, pursuing new and creative paths, and preparing to present yourself professionally to your teachers, peers, and employers.</p> <p>This is a self-paced course with “instructional scaffolding” https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/sca/cresource/q1/p01/ to assist you with mastering concepts and setting a pace for your learning. This means that you are ultimately in charge of when you complete assignments. If you foresee a time during the semester when you will be unable to complete coursework due to planned activities, it is your responsibility to turn in the relevant assignments early.</p> <p>The course progression (order of assignments, readings, and activities) can be easily followed on the Interactive Syllabus page on eLearning. This will appear as your Home screen each time you open the course page. It is important that you complete all readings</p>
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	<p>and activities <i>in the order that they appear</i>, so that you have the context needed to build on previous knowledge.</p> <p>The lectures, which you can find as a link under the "Week x" column, will be cumulative and the instructor assumes that you have watched previous lectures and completed all readings and activities prior to watching the next lecture. If you feel lost, please email your instructor to see how you can get back on track.</p>
<p>Class Materials</p>	<p>The instructor will provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. In addition to the required readings listed above, all additional readings will be made available for free on eLearning. You are welcome to purchase or print copies for your personal educational use. Films will be accessible through digital platforms included in your student fees (i.e. Kanopy, Alexander Street, Films On Demand).</p>
<p>Class Attendance</p>	<p>Course engagement, building community, and discussions</p> <p>This is an asynchronous online course, which means that your level of engagement with the instructor and your peers is often totally up to you! We will have optional discussion board posts and one required peer feedback assignment to encourage conversation and engagement. However, you may also find it easier to sustain a long-term conversation with a few classmates by meeting up for coffee, over Teams, or some other way that works for you while talking about course material. Please feel free to post in the "Building Scholarly Community" discussion board to see if you can connect with someone in the course. This is completely optional but might be a fun way to make friends and increase your course content comprehension. Please let your instructor know how else she can support you in building community in the course. You are always welcome to come to campus to meet with your instructor for in-person office hours (announced on eLearning).</p> <p>Notice of Synchronous Meetings:</p> <p>You are required to meet with your instructor on Teams at least one time in the first two weeks of the course (worth 5pts). There are also two extra credit/optional synchronous class meetings listed on the syllabus.</p>

<p>Class Participation</p>	<p>Classroom Etiquette Policy</p> <p>As a shared learning space, I view the virtual classroom as a place where everyone is entitled to express themselves however they are most comfortable. Please remember that though we may discuss some sensitive political and ethical topics, we are all members of the same community that values civility and mutual understanding. If you are offended by another student’s language, views, or behavior, please bring it to my attention so that we can try to come to a resolution that respects everyone’s right to self-expression while still addressing your concerns. If a situation warrants further action, I may refer the student to the Office of Student Conduct. As a student, you also have the right to submit complaints to the Office of Student Conduct if you believe another student’s behavior crosses the line of acceptability.</p> <p><i>A Note from the Provost’s Office Website:</i> Texas Senate Bill 17, the recent law that prohibits diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and activities at public universities in Texas, does not in any way apply to academic course instruction. Students should not feel the need to self-censor or limit their participation in academic courses pertaining to topics of race and racism, structural inequality, LGBTQ+ issues, or diversity, equity, and inclusion, and related topics.</p>
<p>Class Recordings</p>	<p>Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.</p>
<p>Grading (credit) Criteria</p>	<p>Personal Reflection (10pts) AI & AI Worksheet (5pts) APA Formatting Quizzes (6pts) Research Proposal Form (4pts) Instructor Consultation (5pts) Paper Proposal (10pts) Annotated Bibliography (10pts) Rough Draft of Final Paper (20pts)* Peer Feedback (10pts) Final Paper (20pts) <i>*This grade can replace your Rough Draft grade, which is intended to allow you to earn credit for making revisions based on the feedback from your instructor and your peer(s).</i></p>
<p>Make-up Exams</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Extra Credit</p>	<p>Opportunities will be announced in video lectures and posted on eLearning. Check the “Extra Credit Opportunities” tab for more information.</p>

<p>Late Work</p>	<p>Late submissions are accepted but will include a standard point deduction. This is to help encourage you to establish your personal time management skills and to reward you for keeping pace with the course expectations. The late penalty is applied to all assignments. For this course, the standard late penalty is 10% per day and will be calculated by eLearning.</p> <p>The last day to submit all coursework is listed on eLearning.</p> <p><i>A note on intercultural awareness:</i></p> <p>In order to be sensitive to your need to create a healthy work-life balance, I have checked all assignment due dates via the Interfaith Calendar. http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/index.htm I have done my best to make sure no assignments are due on major religious holidays, but if I have made a mistake, please bring it to my attention.</p>
<p>Special Assignments</p>	<p>Please review all assignments posted on eLearning.</p>
<p>Classroom Citizenship</p>	<p>Technology Policy</p> <p>You will need regular access to a device with internet to view notes and the readings. Recording (or taking screenshots, pictures, or videos) of any portion of our classes without our consent is a violation not only of our privacy and trust but also of the Student Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Communication Policy</p> <p>As a courtesy, and being mindful of everyone’s work-life balance, please join me in practicing the habit of sending email communications between business hours - Monday-Friday 8am-5pm (unless it is a time-sensitive matter). During the week, I usually answer messages within a few hours. After-hours and weekend email will be answered on the next business day. Confidential matters (including specific grades) should only be discussed in a private meeting. Please use my “Bookings” page.</p>
<p>Comet Creed</p>	<p><i>This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:</i></p> <p><i>“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”</i></p>
<p>Accommodations for Students with Disabilities</p>	<p><i>I want to affirm your presence and your rights.</i> The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you are seeking accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008), please register with the AccessAbility Resource Center, located in the Administration Building (AD), Suite 2.224. Their phone number is 972-883-2098, email: accessability@utdallas.edu(opens in a new tab) and website is https://accessability.utdallas.edu(opens in a new tab) . To receive academic accommodations for this class, please</p>

	<p>obtain the proper AccessAbility Resource Center letter of accommodation. I also request that you communicate directly with me at the beginning of the semester about specific accommodations based on your letter so that I can understand your unique learning needs and ensure I can meet them in a timely manner.</p>
<p>Academic Support Resources</p>	<p>Academic Integrity</p> <p>UTD students are bound by the academic policies outlined on the university website. Sanctions vary from a failing grade to expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense. The value of a UTD degree depends on everyone taking these standards seriously. It is your responsibility to review these policies and ask questions when you are unsure about something. All suspected violations of the honor code will be referred to the Office of Undergraduate Academic Integrity. Note: The eLearning platform uses TurnItIn software which automatically alerts me to copied texts, work that matches another student’s work, and even work that matches students’ works from previous courses, years, etc...</p> <p>Artificial Intelligence</p> <p>The assignments have been designed to cultivate your creative thinking and personal expression. All written and verbal assignments are expected to be completed without any assistance from artificial intelligence. While preliminary content learning, brainstorming, and outlining may be AI-assisted, all words in completed assignment must be <i>your own words</i>. If you have questions or concerns, please let your instructor know.</p> <p>Detection: This course uses TurnItIn screening for AI-generated content. Across all BIS3320 sections, if the AI score of a submission exceeds 35%, your instructor is professionally obligated to request a formal review of your submission. The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards will handle all reviews and let your instructor know their findings. This is to ensure that all students are treated fairly in this process.</p> <p>Notice of Best Practices: To ensure that you are able to show your work is in your own words, your instructor recommends that you <u>complete all research paper tasks in a single MicrosoftWord document showing the version history throughout the entire semester</u>. (If you use GoogleDocs, you can provide the URL to your “live” document on the downloaded .DOCX file.) This practice will also assist the OSCCS conduct an efficient review of your work. If you choose to ignore this recommendation, it may be extremely difficult to prove that your writing was developed over time and in your own words.</p> <p>Please visit the Academic Support Resources page to view the University’s academic support resources for all students.</p>
<p>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</p>	<p>Please visit the Syllabus Policies page to view the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</p>

	Please review the catalog sections regarding the credit/no credit or pass/fail grading option and withdrawal from class.
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The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.