

IDST 194: Modes of Inquiry

Section 001

Spring 2017

Thursday, 12:30-1:45 pm

Bingham Rm 108

CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Modes of Inquiry is a one-credit pass/fail seminar course designed to introduce students to research as it is practiced by professional scholars in a variety of academic disciplines. As guest speakers, UNC professors will be invited to discuss their research and the development of their careers. Following each guest lecture, there will be a brief question and answer session, during which time students can discuss ideas and ask questions informally of the guest speaker and with each other.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As students in this course, you will ...

- Become familiar with a variety of research methods and resources;
- Discover how research is practiced in a variety of disciplines;
- Learn about the original research of undergraduates at Carolina;
- Be introduced to opportunities to conduct original research;
- Profile research scholars who are members of the Carolina community;
- Have an opportunity to practice public speaking and discussion skills; and
- Reflect on faculty presentations and class conversations.

COURSE DESIGN

This class is structured as a hybrid lecture/seminar. Nine of our class sessions will be devoted to guest lectures from UNC professors who will discuss their research. These lectures will be followed by brief, informal discussion, as is customary in seminar courses. These informal discussions are a fantastic opportunity to find out more about how knowledge is made in fields that may be familiar and/or new to you. *Each student is responsible for participating in the discussions!*

COURSE MATERIALS

There are several handouts available in the Sakai [resources](#) section to clarify the course expectations: How to Introduce a Speaker; Preparing a Faculty Profile; Student Presentation Guidelines; and a sample Presentation Handout. Please read these handouts.

A brief profile about each faculty presenter will be prepared by a team of students prior to each presentation. These will be posted on Sakai under [forum](#) in the dated thread associated with your

professor prior to the presentation (by Tuesday evening at 9 p.m.) All students are expected to read these brief profiles prior to class.

There are no other pre-assigned books or readings for this course. Presenters may provide handouts, readings, and/or PowerPoint slides related to their presentations. These will be posted on Sakai under resources as they become available.

COURSE RESPONSIBILITIES/ASSIGNMENTS:

Participation and Attendance

Class attendance and participation is the primary responsibility of students enrolled in this course. Students will be expected to be full participants in shaping the character of the seminar. You should come to class ready to listen attentively and with curiosity, and willing to engage with faculty presenters, your classmates and the class discussion. Please treat our guest speakers with courtesy. Pay attention, focus on their presentations, and participate in the discussion. To ensure participation, students will be evaluated on their contribution to the class.

To be successful, you should ...

- Attend every class, physically and mentally.
- Be on time.
- Be engaged.
- Be respectful.

Absences

Students are expected to attend all classes. If you expect to miss a class due to illness, religious observance or other circumstance beyond your control, please notify both the Instructor and Graduate Assistant prior to class. As indicated in the undergraduate bulletin, students are authorized up to two excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by their faith. In addition, students are responsible for providing a written notice for an excused absence for a religious observance two weeks in advance of the date requested. If you have an excused absence due to religious observance, you will be asked to make up the class by reading a paper written by the faculty presenter and submitting a 250-500 word commentary reflecting on the faculty member's research within a week of the missed class. In order to PASS this course, student can miss no more than 3 classes.

It is your responsibility to sign in on the roster each day; if you miss it as it makes its way around during class, you must find the Graduate Assistant at the end of class to sign in.

Use of Electronic Devices

You will not need your computer in this class; please turn off and put away all electronic devices. You cannot engage with the faculty presenters and your classmates if you are involved with your cell phone or doing work for other classes -- or sleeping! If we notice that you are distracted and not focusing on class activities, we will count you absent for that day.

Host Team: Faculty Interview and Faculty Profiles

Each student will sign up to serve on a host team of about four students. Each host team will be assigned to research their professor's background, design and conduct a short interview with the

professor, and write up a paragraph (i.e. faculty profile) introducing the professor's background and research interests. These interviews with the faculty should be coordinated as a team. Therefore, you will all need to work together to find a time to meet with the faculty member as a group. This paragraph will be approximately 200 words and will be posted on the Sakai forum by 9 pm on the Tuesday evening before the Thursday class in which your professor presents. (This should be posted in the forum thread dedicated to your professor.) Please review the handout on Sakai Resources titled "Preparing a Faculty Profile."

Members of a host team that do not fully participate in completing the faculty interview, faculty profile, oral introduction, and leadership of discussion will not receive credit for attendance and participation on the day that their team is responsible for hosting.

Host Team: Faculty Oral Introduction

Each host team will also prepare a short (5-minute) oral introduction to be delivered on the day that you host your professor. **DO NOT READ A PREPARED STATEMENT;** *especially* do not read the exact same paragraph you posted on Sakai! You may use notes, outlines, or index cards to guide you, or you may memorize your part of the introductory presentation. Each student on the team should participate in delivering the introduction. Please review the handout on Sakai Resources titled, "How to Introduce a Speaker."

Host Team: Stimulating and Moderating In-Class Discussion

During and after each faculty presentation, there will be 20-30 minutes for discussion. Keeping the conversation moving is part of being a good host. Thus, each host team will be responsible for helping to stimulate and moderate discussion. To do this, jot down 3-4 questions as they occur to you during the faculty member's presentation. These questions may be requests for more information or clarification about something the speaker said. They may also be questions about the faculty member's career progress and advice to students. The faculty presenting in this course are all interested in helping you develop your ideas and career interests, so take advantage of this exceptional opportunity. If the discussion is especially lively, you may not get to ask your questions. If you are a member of the host team, turn in a sheet with your questions on them to the TA at the end of each class.

Host Team: Stimulating and Moderating On-line Forum Discussion

After the conclusion of each presentation, the host team will also be responsible for initiating an On-line forum discussion. To do this, simply post your reflections on-line (in the forum thread for your week/speaker) and ask your peers what they think. Questions that can serve as topics for reflection include: (1) What did you learn that surprised you or intrigued you? (2) What new ideas did the presentation give you about your research interests or career interests? (3) What type of personal or life lessons shared by the speaker resonated with you or surprised you? (2) What tips did you take home about preparing an effective presentation? In other words, what did the speaker do to help engage you in their topic? What did they do that made it harder for you to connect with their topic and the presentation?

Undergraduate Research Presentations

In addition to guest lectures from UNC professors, 7-8 members of our class who have conducted original research will lead the class on days reserved for student panels. These days will be structured in a seminar format; this means the emphasis will be on learning through discourse with one another. Students who present their research will not be responsible for hosting a professor. The research presentation will be in lieu of serving on a host team. Students invited to present their research to the class will be counted as absent for the class if they miss their research presentation.

Discussion Forum Reflections

This class offers you a unique opportunity to hear from a range of dynamic faculty researchers and to engage in dialogue and conversation with them and your classmates. After each class, please spend 5 minutes reflecting on what you've learned and discovered in that class session. Then, post your reflection and thoughts to the Discussion Forum. You are expected to post a reflection after each faculty presentation; reflections should be posted before the next class meeting begins. A reflective statement on each presentation is required to receive full credit for attendance and participation in each class. Therefore, students missing more than 3 reflective posts will NOT PASS this course. Most reflective posts are 150-200 words in length.

Research Paths Handout

This course is intended to help you begin to think about developing your own research ideas as an undergraduate at UNC-Chapel Hill and to help you devise a strategy for pursuing your research interests. To get you started in this effort, we will provide time to discuss your research interests in class and discuss opportunities at UNC-Chapel Hill to engage in research. After this class, we will ask you to begin to write up your personal research path by completing the research path handout available under Sakai Resources. Students who do not complete the research paths statement will not receive credit for attendance and participation of the class day devoted to developing your research ideas and research paths.

Final Exam

All undergraduate courses at UNC-Chapel are required to have a final exam. The final exam for this course will be graded on a pass/fail basis and will be administered on the last day of class. The final exam will provide you with an opportunity to reflect on what you have learned from each speaker's presentation of their research. This includes an understanding of the different definitions of research, the different methodology used to conduct research, and the different applications of this research in academia and beyond.

Ethics: The Carolina Way

The honor code applies to everything that you—and I—do at this university. Our work in this class will conform to the principles and procedures defined in the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance* (<http://instrument.unc.edu/>).

COURSE GRADES

This course may only be taken on a Pass/Fail Option. A passing grade (PS) will be awarded to students who meet the course requirements through attendance, participation during discussion sessions, timely and responsible fulfillment of hosting duties, posting reflections to the discussion forums and completion of all other assigned work on time. You will NOT PASS this course if you:

- Miss 4 or more classes, or
- Miss 4 or more assignments, or
- You are not present on the last day of class for the final exam

We want every student to pass this course. Therefore, please monitor your attendance and completion of your assignments closely.

Your **final grade** will be based on the following assignments:

Attendance
Class Participation
Reflections
Speaker Host (Interview, Written Profile, Oral Introduction, and Discussion Leadership) – or – Undergraduate Research Presentation
Research Paths Handout
Final Exam

CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due (before beginning of next class)
Week 1	January 12	Welcome and Introductions	
Week 2	January 19	Speaker 1: Ben Waterhouse (HIST)	Reflection 1
Week 3	January 26	Speaker 2: Terry Rhodes (MUSC)	Reflection 2
Week 4	February 2	Speaker 3: Charlene Regester (AFAM)	Reflection 3
Week 5	February 9	OUR Presentation	Research Paths Handout (due prior to start of next class)
Week 6	February 16	Speaker 4: Brigitte Zimmerman (PLCY)	Reflection 4
Week 7	February 23	Speaker 5: Gorham Kindem (COMM)	Reflection 5
Week 8	March 2	Student Panel 1	Self-Evaluation (presenters only)
Week 9	March 9	Speaker 6: Tatiana String (ARTH)	Reflection 6
Week 10	March 16	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS	
Week 11	March 23	Student Panel 2	Self-Evaluation (presenters only)
Week 12	March 30	Speaker 7: Barbara MacGregor (MASC)	Reflection 7
Week 13	April 6	Speaker 8: Deb Stroman (EXSS)	Reflection 8
Week 14	April 13	Speaker 9: Jose Rial (GEOL)	Reflection 9
Week 15	April 20	Presentation by Dr. Stephen Gent (POLI)	NA
Week 16	April 27	Final Exam and Course Review: Bring your laptops to class.	