

**New York City College of Technology  
Interdisciplinary Committee  
Course Review Form**

**DATE:** 3/11/14

**REVIEWER:** J. Davis

**COURSE TITLE & NUMBER:** SBS 2000

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**PREREQUISITES:** Any Introductory ANTH, ECON, GEOG, GOV, HIS, PSY, SOC, or, any AFR or LTAM 1400 series course, or AFR 1501, 1502, 2402 or 3000, or COMM 2402, or 3401 and MAT 1180 or higher; ADGA students will also need the prerequisite of PSY 3407 Psychology of Perception.

**COURSE IS:** ☒ Existing    ☐ New    ☐ In development

**PROPOSED COURSE DESIGNATION:**    ☒ College Option    ☒ elective    ☐ Capstone    ☒ other:

**DEPARTMENT HOUSED IN:** Social Science

**PROPOSED STRUCTURE (e.g., co-taught, guest lecture, LC, other):** 25% Guest Lecture

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION (if co-taught):** n/a

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to the research methodologies utilized in the social and behavioral sciences, beginning with the fundamentals of research design, through data collection, analysis, interpretation, and the final reporting of results. Both quantitative and qualitative designs are examined using software to aid in inquiry and analysis.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE HOW COURSE MEETS INTERDISCIPLINARY CRITERIA?**

<**Consider:** Our interdisciplinary definition: focuses on questions, problems, and topics too complex or too broad for a single discipline or field to encompass adequately; such studies thrive on drawing connections between seemingly exclusive domains. Also, evaluate Learning Outcomes: Purposefully connect and integrate across discipline knowledge and skills to solve problems; Synthesize and transfer knowledge across disciplinary boundaries; Comprehend factors inherent in complex problems; Apply integrative thinking to problem-solving in ethically and socially responsible ways; Recognize varied perspectives; Gain comfort with complexity and uncertainty; Think critically, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively; become flexible thinkers. Lastly, How is this Section/Learning Community/Other different from other sections/Learning Communities/Other?>

Research methodology is broader than any one single discipline, so the course is interdisciplinary by nature. The question is whether this course meets the definition of 'interdisciplinary' outlined by the Committee. I believe it does. The proposal does seek to draw on specific methodological expertise of different faculty members through guest lectures, which comprise approximately 25% of the contact time with students. The proposal outlines a variety of connections. Because the course would be

standardized, it would be taught the same for each section of this course offered in a given semester. To my knowledge there is no other course on campus that focuses on research methods as an “end” worthy of study; instead, other courses may employ a method or methods as a “means” to an end (i.e., as a way of accomplishing research). Importantly, the latter approach is likely to lack the rigor of the former.

### **DESCRIBE & EVALUATE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE?**

<**Consider:** an interdisciplinary course at City Tech the course must be team taught by more than one faculty member from two or more departments in the College. An interdisciplinary course, by definition, has an interdisciplinary theme as its nucleus. Lastly, is the proposer’s rationale for chosen structure (e.g., guest lecture, co-taught, etc.) in the spirit of interdisciplinarity?>

The course involves 25% guest lecture. I don’t see it explicitly stated in the proposal that the course will be team taught, but perhaps that is simply implied. The course has a clear interdisciplinary focus and the rationale of guest lecture appears appropriately spirited.

**DOES COURSE MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION?** < see links for criteria  
CityTech: [http://www.300jaystreet.com/college-council/curriculum\\_proposals/past\\_proposals](http://www.300jaystreet.com/college-council/curriculum_proposals/past_proposals)  
NYS: <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/lrp/liberalarts.htm> >

Yes.

**STRENGTHS:** <describe strengths of course as an interdisciplinary course>

1. Unlike others offered at City Tech
2. Clearly interdisciplinary
3. Treats methods as a topic worthy of stand-alone study

**WEAKNESSES:** <describe weaknesses of course as interdisciplinary course>

1. Would suggest building in some component in the syllabus that teaches students presentation strategies for the end of semester poster presentations.
2. As this course offers more sections it may be difficult to ensure the same guest lecturer would be available to cover the same topic, for example, Surveys, Questionnaires, and Focus Groups, for each of the sections taught during the semester.
3. I wonder about the 25% Guest Lecture model. If the course drops to 12% Guest Lecture, would we still consider it interdisciplinary (according to our own definition)?