WEBS2002 Interdisciplinary Project

Introduction Exploring Interdisciplinarity

Su White http://www.edshare.soton.ac.uk/13364/

First point of reference

https://secure.ecs.soton.ac.uk/module/1617/WEBS2002/31055/

What/how do we want you to learn?

Overview

This module is offered in the context of a multi-disciplinary programme. The purpose of the module is to allow students to understand the challenges and problems that come from trying to reconcile multiple disciplinary perspectives and value systems on a single problem. This module draws together all the multidisciplinary content and methodologies that they have engaged with, and helps them to understand how to marshall them in a practical, commercial or political context. In addition, the module will:

- give students experience of working in a team and of the problems of communication;
- consolidate and integrate the techniques and concepts introduced in earlier courses.

Module Details

Title: Interdisciplinary Group Project
Code: WEBS2002

Credits: 7.5 ECTS credits
Taught in: Semester 1

Immediate prerequisites

No prerequisites

Aims and Objectives

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. understand the issues surrounding navigating the languages of different disciplines;
- A2. articulate case studies in the application of interdisciplinary approaches to real-world problems
- A3. apply methods for constructing arguments from multi-disciplinary perspectives
- A4. perform critical analysis in an interdisciplinary setting
- A5. demonstrate teamwork and time management

Always go back to the syllabus

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Objectives

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Knowledge and Understanding

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- A1. the issues surrounding navigating the languages of different disciplines;
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  A3. methods for constructing arguments from multi-disciplinary perspectives;
  A4. critical analysis in an interdisciplinary setting;
  A5. teamwork and time management.

Intellectual Skills

Having successfully completed the module, you will be able to:

- B1. prepare an argument from a multi-disciplinary perspective for a given problem;
  B2. critically evaluate arguments and weigh their merits;
  B3. work effectively in a group to deliver a targeted report;
  B4. appreciate the interdependence and conflict inherent in a group project.

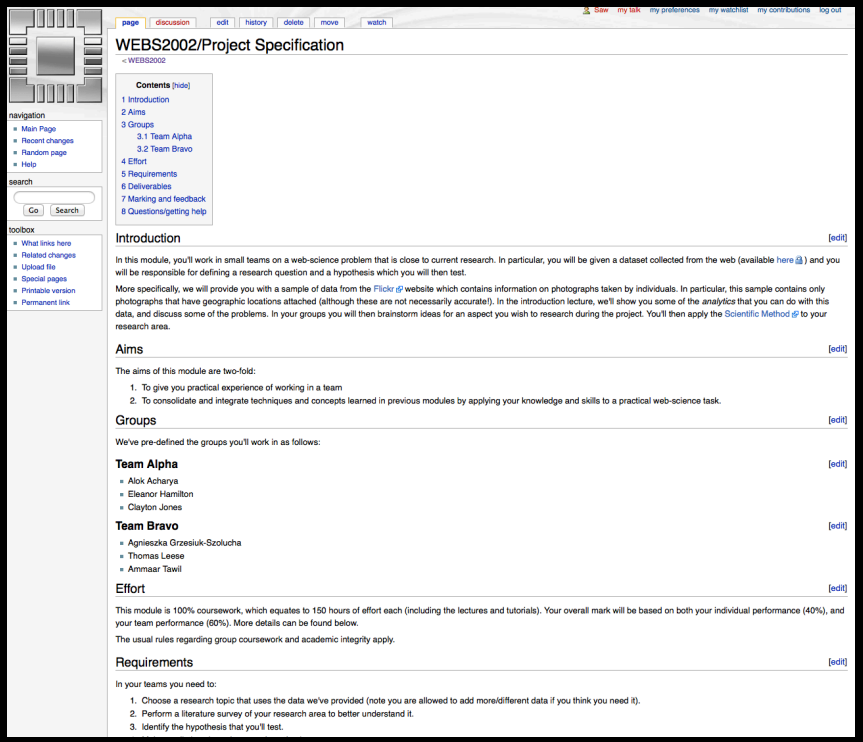
Subject Specific Skills

Having successfully completed the module, you will be able to:

- C1. synthesise disciplinary perspectives to inform a public understanding of the web.
- **Employability/Transferable/Key Skills**
- Having successfully completed the module, you will be able to:
- D1. handle some of the conflict inherent in a group project;
  D2. make critical judgements of your own and other peoples work;
  D3. take responsibility for scheduling and running group meetings.

The task is a vehicle

- But always check back to the syllabus
- … and the assessment criteria
- Go to the handin
- Check and plan
- PS remember it's a group project!!



WEBS2002/Project Specification

< WEBS2002

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Introduction

In this module, you'll work in small teams on a web-science problem that is close to current research. In particular, you will be given a dataset collected from the web (available here) and you will be responsible for defining a research question and a hypothesis which you will then test.

More specifically, we will provide you with a sample of data from the Flickr website which contains information on photographs taken by individuals. In particular, this sample contains only photographs that have geographic locations attached (although these are not necessarily accurate!). In the introduction lecture, we'll show you some of the *analytics* that you can do with this data, and discuss some of the problems. In your groups you will then brainstorm ideas for an aspect you wish to research during the project. You'll then apply the Scientific Method to your research area.

Aims

The aims of this module are two-fold:

1. To give you practical experience of working in a team
2. To consolidate and integrate techniques and concepts learned in previous modules by applying your knowledge and skills to a practical web-science task.

Groups

We've pre-defined the groups you'll work in as follows:

Team Alpha

- Alok Acharya
- Eleanor Hamilton
- Clayton Jones

Team Bravo

- Agnieszka Grzesiuk-Szolucha
- Thomas Leese
- Ammaar Tawil

Effort

This module is 100% coursework, which equates to 150 hours of effort each (including the lectures and tutorials). Your overall mark will be based on both your individual performance (40%), and your team performance (60%). More details can be found below.

The usual rules regarding group coursework and academic integrity apply.

Requirements

In your teams you need to:

1. Choose a research topic that uses the data we've provided (note you are allowed to add more/different data if you think you need it).
2. Perform a literature survey of your research area to better understand it.
3. Identify the hypothesis that you'll test.

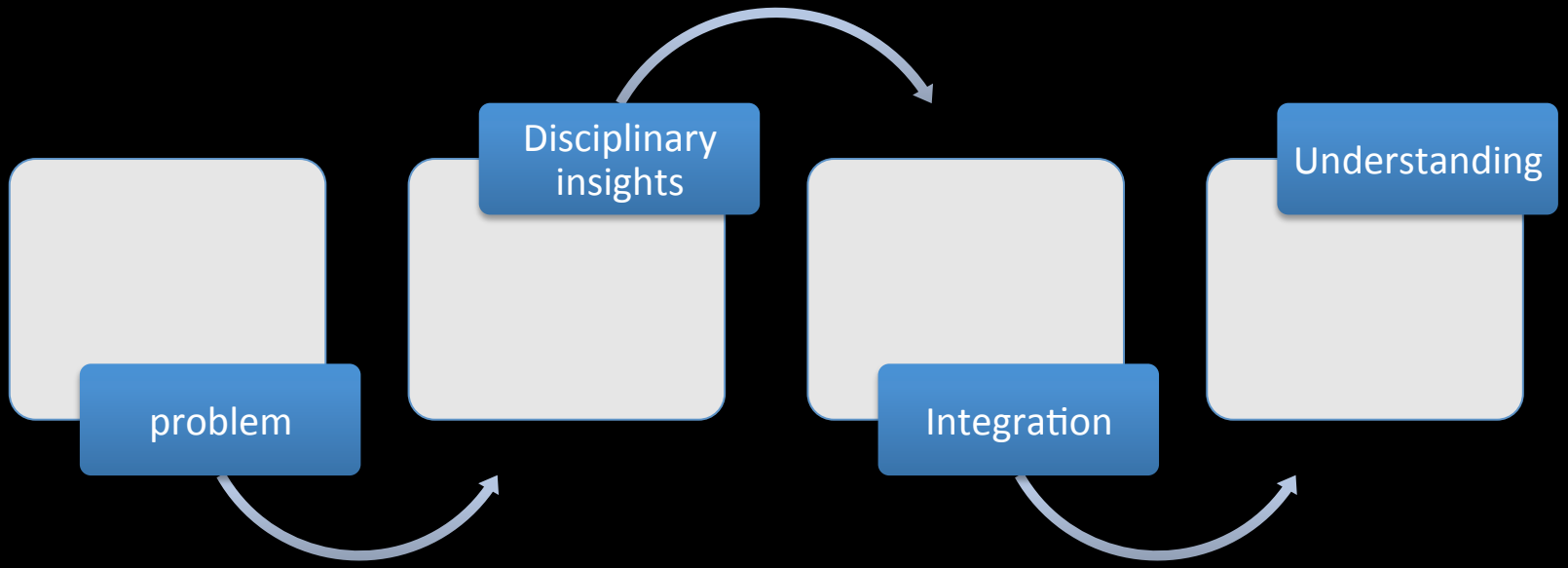
https://secure.ecs.soton.ac.uk/noteswiki/w/WEBS2002/Project_Specification

What we expect you to do

- **1. DEFINE** problems, issues, topics or questions that warrant interdisciplinary examination
- **2. PRESENT** a clear rationale for taking interdisciplinary approach including the advantages to be gained
- **3. IDENTIFY** relevant disciplines
- **4. CONDUCT** a literature review (what is known on the topic from each of the disciplines)
- **5. DEVELOP** a command of each relevant discipline set out the analytical structure central to each discipline, identify key underlying assumptions, and methods of evaluation.
- **6. STUDY** the problem and generate insights including predictions from each of the relevant disciplines - in isolation!!
- **7. IDENTIFY** conflicts between and/or areas of complementary between the insights offered from each discipline
- **8. CREATE** common ground by developing a cohesive framework of analysis that incorporates insights from the relevant disciplines in a systematic manner
- **9. COMBINE** disciplinary insights to construct new more integrated understanding of the problem

Repko & Welch 2005

The flow of activites



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Class exercise:

Individually

- Look at the posters
- Identify the (possible) contributory disciplines

In Pairs

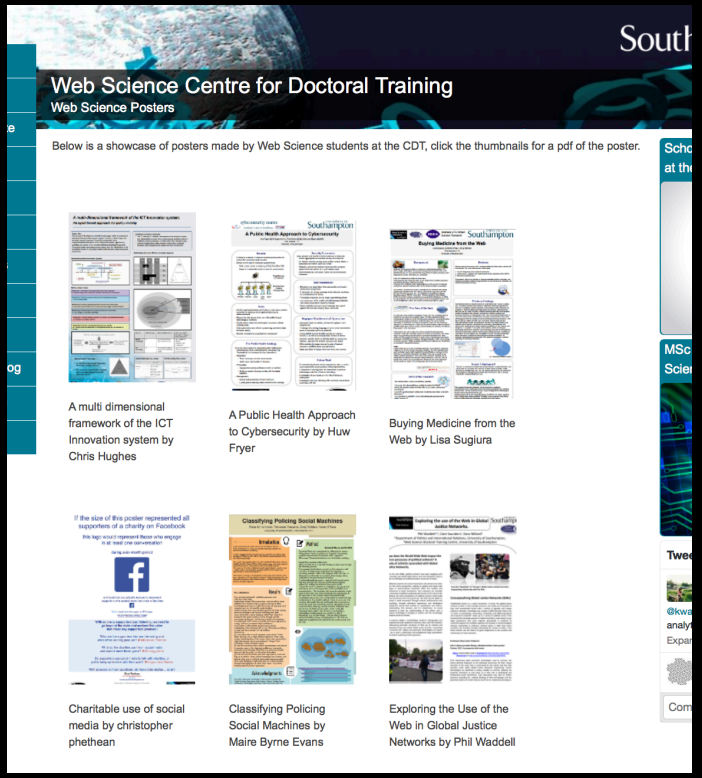
- Discuss your analysis
- Expand the list of contributory views

Share

- In a round
- Tell the class what you learnt
- Comment on the titles
  - are they useful?
  - did you understand them?

Quick preview

- Why you are looking at the posters go by
- Use them to help you think your own groups' ideas
- Reflect on them



Posters are available in a slide set http://www.edshare.soton.ac.uk/13359/
Or you can look at them on the web site pdf downloads available
http://dtc.webscience.ecs.soton.ac.uk/people-and-partners/list-of-students/student-research-interests/web-science-posters/

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Prepare yourself

Watch and read

- You will get an email from me as a reminder
- Watch the YouTube videos
- Read one of the papers in the Mendeley group

Be ready for

- Discussions of
  - Interdisciplinarity
  - research practice