Addendums to Course Syllabus

The Online SIRS System.

Michigan State University takes seriously the opinion of students in the evaluation of the effectiveness of instruction, and has implemented the SIRS (Student Instructional Rating System) process to gather student feedback. This course utilizes the "online SIRS" system. You will receive an e-mail sometime during the last two weeks of class asking you to fill out the SIRS online form at your convenience. Please note the final grade for this course will not be accessible on STUINFO during the week following the submission of grades for this course unless the SIRS online form has been filled out. You will have the option on the online SIRS form to decline to participate in the evaluation of the course – we hope, however, that you will be willing to give us your frank and constructive feedback so that we may instruct students even better in the future.

MSU Liberal Learning Goals

http://undergrad.msu.edu/msu-goals

1) Analytical Thinking

The MSU graduate uses ways of knowing from mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts to access information and critically analyzes complex material in order to evaluate evidence, construct reasoned arguments, and communicate inferences and conclusions

- Acquires, analyzes, and evaluates information from multiple sources
- Synthesizes and applies the information within and across disciplines
- Identifies and applies, as appropriate, quantitative methods for defining and responding to problems
- Identifies the credibility, use and misuse of scientific, humanistic and artistic methods

2) Cultural Understanding

The MSU graduate comprehends global and cultural diversity within historical, artistic, and societal contexts

- Reflects on experiences with diversity to demonstrate knowledge and sensitivity
- Demonstrates awareness of how diversity emerges within and across cultures

3) Effective Citizenship

The MSU graduate participates as a member of local, national, and global communities and has the capacity to lead in an increasingly interdependent world

- Understands the structures of local, national, and global governance systems and acts effectively within those structures in both individual and collaborative ways
- Applies knowledge and abilities to solve societal problems in ethical ways

4) Effective Communication

The MSU graduate uses a variety of media to communicate effectively with diverse audiences

- Identifies how contexts affect communication strategies and practices
- Engages in effective communication practices in a variety of situations and with a variety of media

5) Integrated Reasoning

The MSU graduate integrates discipline-based knowledge to make informed decisions that reflect humane social, ethical, and aesthetic values

- Critically applies liberal arts knowledge in disciplinary contexts and disciplinary knowledge in liberal arts contexts
- Uses a variety of inquiry strategies incorporating multiple views to make value judgments, solve problems, answer questions, and generate new understandings

Goals for Student Learning In Integrative Studies-General Science

All ISB/ISP courses are a mixture of thematic and disciplinary approaches to knowledge of the physical and biological sciences. Completion of the required curricula will lead to the following four competencies:

1. ***Scientific Knowledge****: Students will be able to describe some of the major concepts in science and be able to use them to explain important natural phenomena.*
2. ***Scientific Development****: Students will be able to explain the contexts in which these concepts and results were developed and be aware of where these concepts may lead us in the future.*
3. ***Scientific Practice****: Students will be able to discriminate between ideas that do and do not constitute proper subjects for science, give examples of how scientific understanding itself constantly evolves, and be able to use scientific approaches to solving problems in the natural world.*
4. ***Scientific Appreciation****: Students will hopefully learn to value the efforts of physical and biological scientists as they continue to address practical needs and continue research into matters of fundamental and lasting importance.*