Learning Outcomes: This course is designed to introduce you to interdisciplinary study and to graduate study in general. We will explore the concept of interdisciplinary study, investigate possible research areas, acclimate to graduate study, and assimilate into peer groups.

In class meetings: We will meet three times during the term to discuss particular areas of interdisciplinarity, your programs and graduate school in general. I will send out a doodle poll tonight to determine the times we will meet. We will meet for three one hour sessions during the term: the third, sixth and tenth weeks of the term.

Reading:
Reading 1 Due with group discussion by week of Oct 13:
** Questions for discussion:
1. How does interdisciplinary research differ from what you normally learn in classes?
2. Why is interdisciplinary research an appropriate for what you want to study?

Reading 2 Due with group discussion by Nov 3:
http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/39459_Chapter1.pdf
1. What are problems you anticipate just from reading this chapter in what you will eventually study?
2. How can you make the most of your resources to resolve your interdisciplinary problems?

Assignments:
- Program of Study 500 pts
- Group Program 300 pts.

Program of Study: During the tenth week (Dec 1) of the term you will turn in your Program of Study. This program should include all course work and thesis/research paper credits. Worth 500 pts.

Group Program: One of the difficulties with an MAIS degree is the challenge of finding a cohort with whom you can work to successfully complete your degree. A partial goal of this course and its follow-up IST 512 is to allow you to meet and create alliances with other MAIS students. Consequently, you will begin forming a group with whom you will work for at least two quarters, hopefully for the duration of your degree program. You must have a minimum of
three people in your group with five as the maximum. You will meet weekly or bi-weekly, just to chat, get to know each other. You will also be given questions regarding the readings that you should discuss with your groups. You should summarize your reading discussions along with providing updates on your groups. You will check in and provide progress reports three times during the term (there are only two readings for this term): Oct 13 (at which time you will tell me who is in your group and your meeting plans), Nov 4 (this is just an update on how the group is developing, what you’ve been doing and any problems that are arising, and Dec 1 (this will be a summary of how often you’ve met, issues you’ve discussed, plans for meeting in the future. You will summarize the second reading discussion). These updates and reports should be 3/4 to 1 full page, double spaced. One person from your group is responsible for turning these in at the in person meetings. Each report is worth 100 points.

There will be a SIP session – School in Progress – where returning students will give you pointers on what they wish they knew when they were in your shoes. This will take place during the fourth week of the term. The time will coincide with the class time at a place to be determined. You can earn an additional 25 points and lots of valuable advice by attending this session.