

**BLS300A – Intro to Interdisciplinary Studies
Spring 2006**

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Outline of Writing Assignments.

The following is a preliminary and tentative description of the four major and four informal writing assignments due this term. A detailed set of instructions will be given to you for each assignment as it is begun. The details of these assignments may change during the course of the term, but the due dates will remain as indicated here.

Test Assignment: This is ungraded and meant to give you experience in submitting writing assignments electronically. *Due March 31.*

Writing Assignment #1: This is a short paper of no more than three pages (750 words max). After reading the paper by Friere and examining all of the course materials, the assignment will be a personal reflection on the nature of BIS300A. After receiving my comments and grade, students will complete a self-assessment and make an appointment with the Writing Center for a consultation. This results in a plan to use in improving their writing during the rest of the term. *Due April 7.*

Writing Assignment #2: This is a short writing assignment (750 words max) meant to complement the first library research workshop. Before the workshop, your small group is to formulate two questions, one based on the natural history of ground water and the other on the political and social aspects of it. After the workshop, you are individually to evaluate your sources using the prompts given as part of this assignment. *Due April 18.*

Writing Assignment #3: This is a short writing assignment (1000 words, max) that complements the library workshops on critical reading, source evaluation and identification of scholarly sources. This will further address the questions found in the previous assignment, but will now focus on scholarly sources and evaluation of the sources. It will document the processes you used to find sources and the interrelationships between sources found in the scholarly literature. *Due May 5.*

Writing Assignment #4: This is the most extensive project of the course (max approx 2000 words). The final product will be a proposal for the “funding” of a research project. You will develop a research question and initial bibliography, and present a well thought out proposal *as if* you were proposing to research this topic. This will be done in stages, with some of the initial material being handed in at preliminary deadlines. *Draft due May 16; final proposal due June 1.*

Informal “Response” Assignments. In addition to the “major” research/writing assignments above, there will be four informal writing assignments, which will be prompted reflections on course readings. These will be short (500 words max). *Due dates: April 12, April 21, May 11, and May 23.*