Integrative Inquiry Project
Wendy Bianchini Morrison
HDFS 101

As part of the requirements of a university CORE IS course, you will be required to fulfill a semester long inquiry project. This project will include scholarly research into a topic of your choice, written progress throughout the semester, a final written paper describing your inquiry findings, and a “Pecha Kucha” style presentation to your classmates in a small group at the end of the semester.

**Integrative Inquiry Project:** Human Development is an INTERDISCIPLINARY field, meaning research from almost every field of study contributes to our knowledge and understanding of human development.

As a CORE IS course, our class contains students from many different fields of study. Therefore, we are going to use our interdisciplinary make-up to see how these different disciplines impact development. We are going to be using Urie Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Systems Model as a starting point.

Ecological systems theory, developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner, also called developmental systems theory or human ecology theory, identifies five environmental systems with which an individual interacts: the microsystem, the mesosystem, the exosystem, macrosystem, and the chronosystem. This theory provides the framework from which developmentalists study the relationships with individuals’ contexts within communities and the wider society.

**INQUIRY:** In your field of study, or if undecided, an area of study of interest to you, identify one factor that you are interested in and analyze its impact on human development.
INQUIRY QUESTION: How does some factor of your choice impact human development?

Examples:

What is the impact of the food children have access to in schools on human development?

What is the impact of the design of a building, a neighborhood or a city on human development?

What is the impact of having healthcare coverage or not on human development?

What is the impact of different types of early childhood education on human development (ie: Montessori, Waldorf, Head Start, etc.)?

What is the impact of photography, film or other art/entertainment on human development?

What is the impact of a particular historical event on human development?

What is the impact of a specific agricultural practice on human development?

What is the impact of access to clean water on human development?

What is the impact of a specific mental illness on human development?

Engage in a comprehensive inquiry of your chosen topic.

Your inquiry will include:

- at least three peer-reviewed academic journal articles related to your topic.
- at least one cross-cultural example comparing your topic in one culture (this would most likely be your own culture) to a similar or comparable topic in another culture.
- at least one face-to-face interview with a professional related to your topic (think about interviewing a professor in your department, or someone else with professional expertise. You may also conduct additional interviews with non-professionals with experience with your topic.)
- interactive exploration of your topic (this should include visiting relevant sites, such as schools, neighborhoods, art exhibits, medical settings, etc., interviewing others about your topic, and documenting what you find by taking photos, making notes).

TIPS FOR CHOOSING A TOPIC

Here are some things to consider when thinking about a topic:

What is a topic that will be beneficial for you to learn more about either for your future career, your major, or your personal life? What is a topic that is really interesting to you?

What is a topic that allows you to access a professional/expert to conduct a face-to-face interview this semester? This could be a professor on campus who does research on this topic, or someone in the community who works professionally in your topic area. This could allow you to get to know someone on campus in your department or in the community who works professionally involving your topic.
In your preliminary research, what is out there about your topic? Do you need to expand or narrow your topic? Sometimes your initial research will help you decide which topic you want to select.

Feel free to discuss your ideas with your professor!

**PRESENTATION FORMAT**

Presentations will be done in mini “Pecha Kucha” style—20 slides, 20 seconds each. Go for imagery rather than a lot of text. It needs to reflect what you found in your inquiry. Presentation grade will be based on peer evaluation from your group.

*See D2L for more details.*

**PAPER FORMAT**

Papers will be written in APA format and should be about 5-6 pages in length (the quality of the paper is much more important than the actual length, but they should not be less than 4 pages, and not longer than 6 pages, plus a reference page.) Papers will be submitted to the D2L Dropbox by the deadline. NO LATE PAPERS will be accepted.

*See D2L for more details.*