

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
University Honors Program
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COURSE SYLLABUS

Dr. Carmichael Peters
Spring 2021

Office: DeMille 108

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Office Hours: TTH 02:30 P.M. – 04:30 P.M. and by appointment

Course Number: HON 498-02

Course Title: Honors Capstone Seminar

Credits: 3

Classroom: Remote

Time: TTH 11:30-12:45

Prerequisite: Acceptance in the University Honors Program

Course Description

1. Each senior Honors student is required to complete a significant interdisciplinary project in conjunction with the department in which the student is majoring. This departmental project is the foundation for the Honors capstone. In the capstone, students will evaluate, clarify, and frame their departmental senior project using perspectives and scholarship from their major field and at least one other relevant discipline.
2. Students are expected to develop and sustain a close analytical reading of the sources used in their capstone projects along with a strong logical coherence and persuasiveness of arguments in their in-class and conference presentations of their capstone projects as well as in their research papers.
3. This course is a seminar in which classes take the form of a writers' workshop. As such, class meetings will involve open discussions of students' research projects. Therefore, students are expected to be engaged in ongoing research for their departmental senior project, to give a presentation of their departmental project, to expand this project by adding the methodology and content of at least one other disciplines, to present the results of this expanded research to their classmates, to participate in class discussions of their interdisciplinary research and the interdisciplinary research of others, to make a somewhat formal presentation of their interdisciplinary project to the class in the course of the semester, and to present their interdisciplinary Honors capstone project at the Chapman University Honors Conference on the first Saturday in May, 2021.

Restrictions

- Acceptance into the University Honors Program

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Obtain a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives;
2. Sharpen the ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood);

3. Understand how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing dramatic challenges shaping the world;
4. Develop effective communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Complete a significant project in conjunction with the department in which the student is majoring – Program Learning Outcome 1;
2. Provide students in the University Honors Program with the opportunity to pursue an interdisciplinary research project and to present the findings of their research to the University community and to the Honors faculty and students – Program Learning Outcomes 2 & 3;
3. Create a community of scholars where students have a chance to converse with each other about their research and thus be participants in a semester-long interdisciplinary conversation – Program Learning Outcome 4;
4. Provide a supportive environment for the completion of the Honors capstone project.

Required Texts

1. The Senior Honors Project information booklet and the Capstone Initiation Forms – both can be found on the “Courses” link of the Honors website.
2. Required Readings:
 - a. Selections from Augsburg, Tanya. *Becoming Interdisciplinary: An Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies*. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 2005. (on Canvas)
 - b. David Brooks, “This is Where I Stand” (on Canvas)
 - c. John Stuart Mill, “Ideas on Free Speech” (on Canvas)
 - d. Nussbaum, Martha C. *Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1997.
 - e. Thomas Reese, “The Death of Trust and the Triumph of Suspicion” (on Canvas)

Instructional Strategies

- Weekly seminar meetings

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy

Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

Chapman University Students with Disabilities Policy

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516-4520 or (www.chapman.edu/students/student-health-services/disability-services) if you have questions regarding this procedure, or for information and to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your

accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Chapman University Diversity Policy

Chapman University is committed to fostering learning and working environments that encourage and embrace diversity, multiple perspectives, and the free exchange of ideas as important measures to advance educational and social benefits. Our commitment and affirmation are rooted in our traditions of peace and social justice and our mission of producing ethical and responsible global citizens. The term diversity implies a respect for all and an understanding of individual differences in age, class, disability, ethnicity, gender, language, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Methods of Evaluation

Your semester grade will be based on class attendance, participation in the semester-long interdisciplinary conversation, the quality of the final interdisciplinary project and/or research paper, and the presentation at the Chapman University Honors Conference.

1. **Attendance** – 10% of semester grade:

- Class attendance is required. You are expected to attend all class meetings and to have assignments prepared when they are due. More than three absences will result in zero points for class attendance. For each excused or unexcused absence beyond three there will be a 5% deduction from your possible semester grade. More than three unexcused absences will result in 0 points for attendance.

2. **Participation** – 10% of semester grade:

- Participation does not mean mere presence in the classroom. Instead, it means active listening – that is, the willingness to engage in the back-and-forth of open-ended and reasoned conversations by being open to what others have to say, risking our opinions, asking questions, and surfacing disagreements. Such “active listening” is essential to a successful seminar and to being a community of scholars.

3. **Presentation and Leading Discussion** – 15% of semester grade

- The following is required of each student: (1) explore one of the chapters of *Cultivating Humanity* and at least three of the sources cited by the author within that chapter and in the corresponding footnotes so that they may lead a class discussion on that material; (2) write an outline of that chapter and additional sources – which is to be emailed to me as an attachment the day before the chapter is to be discussed; and, (3) prepare discussion questions and lead the class discussion of that chapter.

4. **Final Capstone Research Paper** on which the Honors interdisciplinary capstone project is based:

- a. Knowledge: the demonstration of familiarity with the appropriate conceptual and theoretical frameworks for the Honors capstone as well as with theoretical understanding and application of interdisciplinarity.
- b. Analysis: the understanding of the historical context of the conceptual and theoretical frameworks of your Honors capstone project and the application of those frameworks to contemporary concerns in an insightful, critical, and logical manner.
- c. Expression: the ability to write in accordance with acceptable grammatical standards, and a demonstrated familiarity with the vocabulary of the disciplines at play in the Honors capstone project. It also represents the ability to orally present your interdisciplinary research project in the semester-long conversation.
- d. Interdisciplinarity: the integration of multiple disciplinary insights and/or methods.

- e. **Final Capstone Research Paper** due on **April 10, 2021** (25% of course grade).
5. **Conference Presentation** – 25% of semester grade
- The conference presentation will be graded for the delivery and effectiveness of your communication, your response to the audience’s questions, the clarity of your research question and/or thesis, the organization of your argument, and your supporting evidence.
 - This presentation is on **Saturday, May 1, 2021**.
6. **Research Paper** – “Interdisciplinarity as *Artes liberales* in the Contemporary World” – 15% of semester grade.
- During the semester, we will read the scanned material on Canvas and *Cultivating Humanity* in order to get some understanding of interdisciplinarity. Using these materials as well as additional research, how would you answer the following question: Can what is called interdisciplinarity today be viewed as an attempt to address the concerns and to satisfy the needs traditionally associated with *artes liberales* (Liberal Arts)? In other words, is it possible to rethink liberal arts as interdisciplinarity?
 - This paper is due on **May 13, 2021**.

Assignments

1. Presentations of senior departmental project – the dates for this are in the syllabus.
2. Write an outline and discussion questions on a chapter from *Cultivating Humanity* and lead class discussion on that chapter. Your outline and discussion questions for the chapter must be emailed to me as an attachment the day before the chapter is discussed – the dates for this are in the syllabus. *The failure to turn this in on time will affect your grade.*
3. In-class presentation of interdisciplinary Honors capstone project – the dates for this are in the syllabus.
4. On **February 15, 2021**, a signed Mentor’s Form is due – please turn in a scanned copy to Ashley Cosgrove.
 - Also, a digital copy of your picture for the Honors Conference booklet is due – please send it to Ashley Cosgrove in the Honors office.
 - *The failure to turn these in on time will affect your grade.*
5. On **March 25, 2021**, your official capstone title and description for conference booklet is due. This should include the following:
 - Title of your presentation
 - Description of presentation – 100 to 120-word limit
 - Major(s) and degree(s)
 - Minor(s)
3. On **April 20, 2021** the completion of the Senior Exit Survey which can be found at <http://www.chapman.edu/academics/honors/exit-survey/index.aspx>
 - *The failure to turn this in on time will affect your grade.*
6. On **April 10, 2021**, a digital copy of your Honors interdisciplinary research paper (on which your Honors capstone project and Honors Conference presentation is based) must be placed in its assigned module on Canvas by 11:59 p.m. *The failure to turn this in on time will affect your grade.*
7. **Saturday, May 1, 2021**: presentation of your Honors capstone project at the Chapman University Honors Annual Conference.
8. On **May 13, 2021** a copy of your paper “Interdisciplinarity as *Artes liberales* in the Contemporary World” must be placed in its assigned module on Canvas by 11:59 p.m.

Projected Schedule of Topics and Assignments

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic and Assignment</u>
February 2	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Class members introduce themselves▪ Review syllabus: objectives/expectations of the course▪ General introduction to the course
February 4	Presentation of Departmental Senior Project – working on capstone research paper and working on capstone presentation
February 9	Presentation of Departmental Senior Project – working on capstone research paper and working on capstone presentation
February 11	Presentation of Departmental Senior Project – working on capstone research paper and working on capstone presentation
February 16	Presentation of Departmental Senior Project – working on capstone research paper and working on capstone presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Signed Mentor’s Form due – please turn a scanned copy of this form to Ashley Cosgrove.▪ A digital copy of your picture for the Honors Conference booklet due – please send it to Ashley Cosgrove in the Honors office.
February 18	Presentation of Departmental Senior Project – working on capstone research paper and working on capstone presentation
February 23	Dialogue and Interdisciplinarity <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Read: John Stewart Mill, “Ideas on Free Speech.”▪ Read: What Is Interdisciplinarity?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read: <i>Becoming Interdisciplinary</i> – Chapter 1: “What Are Interdisciplinary Studies? Some Initial Definitions and Historical Context”• Read: <i>Becoming Interdisciplinary</i> – Chapter 2: “Essential Terms for Interdisciplinary Studies.”• Read: <i>Becoming Interdisciplinary</i> – Chapter 3: “Describing Interdisciplinary Studies”
February 25	The Old Education and the Think-Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Introduction</i> – pages 1-14▪ Read: Thomas Reese, “The Death of Trust and the Triumph of Suspicion”
March 2	Socratic Self-Examination <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 1</i> – pages 15-49▪ Read: David Brooks, “This is Where I Stand”
March 4	Citizens of the World <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 2</i> – pages 50-84
March 9	The Narrative Imagination <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 3</i> – pages 85-112

- March 11** African-American Studies
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 5* – pages 148-185
- March 16** The Study of Non-Western Cultures
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 4* – pages 113-147
- March 18** Women’s Studies
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 6* – pages 186-221
- March 23** **Spring Break**
- March 25** **Spring Break**
- March 30** The Study of Human Sexuality
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 7* – pages 222-256
- April 1** Socrates in the Religious University
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 8* – pages 257-292
- April 6** The “New” Liberal Education
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Conclusion* – pages 293-301
 - Official capstone title and description for conference booklet due in the Honors Office
 - Title of your presentation
 - Description of presentation – 100 to 120-word limit
 - Major(s) and degree(s)
 - Minor(s)
- April 8** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- Complete the Senior Exit Survey which can be found at <http://www.chapman.edu/academics/honors/exit-survey/index.aspx>
- April 13** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- April 15** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- April 20** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- April 22** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- April 27** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- April 29** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- May 1** **Honors Conference**
- May 13** Paper due: “Interdisciplinarity as *artes liberales* in the Contemporary World.”
Interdisciplinary Paper due. Please place your paper in the appropriate module on Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, 2021.

Prepared by Carmichael Peters, Spring 2009
Revised by Carmichael Peters, Fall 2021