

**CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY**  
**University Honors Program**  
**One University Drive**  
**Orange, CA 92866**  
**(714) 997-6626**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Dr. Carmichael Peters**  
**Spring 2024**

**Office:** DeMille 125C

**Email:** [gbabst@chapman.edu](mailto:gbabst@chapman.edu)

**Office Hours:** available via zoom

**Course Number:** HON 498-2  
**Course Title:** Honors Capstone Seminar  
**Credits:** 3

**Classroom:** Doti 105  
**Time:** TTH: 11:30am – 12:45pm

**Prerequisite:** Acceptance in the University Honors Program

**Course Description**

1. Each senior Honors student is required to complete a significant interdisciplinary research project, which is comprised of two parts: (1) an interdisciplinary research paper upon which the project is based; and, (2) an oral presentation of the project at the annual University Honors Conference. In the capstone, students will evaluate, clarify, and frame their project fusing perspectives and scholarship from relevant disciplines.
2. Students are expected to develop and sustain a close analytical reading of the sources used in their capstone projects along with 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.

**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 interdisciplinary project – 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 Reading of all students:
  - Martha Nussbaum, *Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1997 – **purchase and bring to class**

### **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](http://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 course 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 & Participation – 10 points:**

- 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 course 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.

#### **2. Outline and Presentation of chapter in *Cultivating Humanity* – 20 points**

- The following is required of each student: (1) explore one of the chapters of *Cultivating Humanity*, and (2) lead the class discussion of that chapter. This will involve preparing (1) an outline and (2) a slide show of that chapter, both to be turned in.

#### **3. Draft Capstone Research Paper – 10 points**

#### **4. Presentation of Capstone research project to the class – 10 points**

#### **5. Final Capstone Research Paper = 25 points:**

- 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. The length of the Capstone Research Paper is not to be shorter than 20 pages.

f. **Final Capstone Research Paper** due on **April 13, 2024**

6. **Conference Presentation = 25 points**

- 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 4, 2024**.

**Grading basis of 100 points:**

- a. **Attendance & participation = 10 points**
- b. **Outline of required reading = 10 points**
- c. **Presentation of required reading = 10 points**
- d. **Presentation of Capstone Research project to the class = 10 points**
- e. **Draft Capstone Research Paper = 10 points**
- f. **Final Capstone Research Paper (due April 13, 2024) = 25 points\***
- g. **Honors Conference Presentation (May 4, 2024) = 25 points\***

\* assigned by Dr. Peters.

**Honors Program Assignments**

1. On **February 27, 2024**, a signed Mentor's Form is due – please turn it in at the beginning of class.
  - 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.*
2. On **April 9, 2024**, 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. **April 13, 2024**: a digital copy of your final Honors interdisciplinary research paper (on which your Honors capstone project and Honors Conference presentation is based) must be placed in its Canvas' Assignments folder by 11:59 p.m. *The failure to turn this in on time will affect your grade.*
4. On **April 25, 2024** the completion of the Senior Exit Survey which can be found at <http://www.chapman.edu/academics/honors/exit-survey/index.aspx> is due. *The failure to turn this in on time will affect your grade.*
5. **Saturday, May 4, 2024**: presentation of your Honors capstone project at the Chapman University Honors Annual Conference.

## Projected Schedule of Topics and Assignments

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic and Assignment</u>
<b>January 30</b>	General introduction to the course <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Class members introduce themselves</li><li>▪ Review syllabus: objectives/expectations of the course</li></ul>
<b>February 1</b>	No Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Introduction</i> – pages 1-14</li><li>▪ Work on Capstone research project topics</li></ul>
<b>February 6</b>	No Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Work on Capstone research project topics, and identifying mentors</li></ul>
<b>February 8</b>	<b>Capstone research project topics due, and names of potential mentors</b>
<b>February 13</b>	Socratic Self-Examination <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 1</i> – pages 15-49</li><li>▪ Presentation on Chapter 1</li></ul>
<b>February 15</b>	Citizens of the World <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 2</i> – pages 50-84</li><li>▪ Presentation on Chapter 2</li></ul>
<b>February 20</b>	The Narrative Imagination <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 3</i> – pages 85-112</li><li>▪ Presentation on Chapter 3</li></ul>
<b>February 22</b>	The Study of Non-Western Cultures <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 4</i> – pages 113-147</li><li>▪ Presentation on Chapter 4</li></ul>
<b>February 27</b>	No class – work on capstone research paper and on capstone presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Signed Mentor’s Form due to Ashley Cosgrove</b></li><li>▪ <b>A digital copy of your picture for the Honors Conference booklet due – please send it to Ashley Cosgrove in the Honors office.</b></li></ul>
<b>February 29</b>	African-American Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 5</i> – pages 148-185</li><li>▪ Presentation on Chapter 5</li></ul>
<b>March 5</b>	Women’s Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Read: <i>Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 6</i> – pages 186-221</li><li>▪ Presentation on Chapter 6</li></ul>

- March 7** The Study of Human Sexuality
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 7* – pages 222-256
  - Presentation on Chapter 7
- March 12** Socrates in the Religious University
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 8* – pages 257-292
  - Presentation on Chapter 8
- March 14** No Class
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Conclusion* – pages 293-301
  - Work on Capstone research projects
- March 19, 21** **Spring Break**
- March 26, 28** No class – work on capstone research paper and on capstone presentation
- April 2** No class – **Draft Capstone Research Paper due**
- April 4** No class – work on capstone research paper and on capstone presentation
- April 9** No class – **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 Minor(s) degree(s)
- April 11** No class – work on capstone research paper and on capstone presentation
- April 13** **A digital copy of your Honors Capstone interdisciplinary research paper (on which your Honors capstone project and Honors Conference presentation are based) due by 11:59 p.m.**
- April 16, 18, 23** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- April 25** No class - **complete the Senior Exit Survey** which can be found at <http://www.chapman.edu/academics/honors/exit-survey/index.aspx>
- April 30, May 2** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- Saturday, May 4 = Honors Annual Conference**
- May 7, 9** No Class

Prepared by Carmichael Peters, Spring 2009  
 Revised by Gordon Babst Fall 2023, Spring 2024