

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
University Honors Program
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COURSE SYLLABUS

Dr. Domenico Napoletani

Spring 2021

Office: DeMille 110F

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Office Hours via Zoom: T-TH 12:30-14:00 and
by appointment

Course Number: HON 498-01

Classroom: DeMille 107

(remote instruction until further notice)

Course Title: Honors Capstone Seminar

Time: T-TH 10:00-11:15

Credits: 3

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.

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. Nussbaum, Martha C. *Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1997.
3. Senior Exit Survey: <http://www.chapman.edu/academics/honors/exit-survey/index.aspx>
4. Additional readings on interdisciplinarity and liberal education will be made available on Canvas whenever needed.

Instructional Strategies

- Weekly seminar meetings

Methods of Evaluation

Your semester grade will be based on: class attendance; participation in the semester-long interdisciplinary conversation; written reflections on the major themes of our discussions; the quality of the final interdisciplinary project and research paper; the presentation at the Chapman University Honors Conference; and the quality of your research paper on the theme “Interdisciplinarity as *Artes liberales* in the Contemporary World”.

- **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. 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.

- **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.

- **Weekly Reflections and Draft of Capstone Research Paper** – 15% of semester grade.

Written reflections (minimum of 2 pages, maximum of 3 pages, 12pt font, 1” margin and double spaced) will be assigned every Thursday and are due the following Tuesday before

the beginning of class. These reflections will take the form of creative syntheses of the topics discussed during the week, as well as of commentaries on specific problems and topics. Reflections are to be placed in the appropriate “Turnitin” folder on Canvas by 10:00a.m. on Tuesday. *Late reflections are not accepted.*

The draft of the Honors capstone research paper (10 pages, 12pt font, 1” margin and double spaced) is due on **March 11, 2021**. It should present in a compelling way the ideas you plan to explore, and it should clearly demonstrate the need for interdisciplinarity in your chosen research topic. It must be placed in its assigned Turnitin folder on Canvas by 11:59 p.m.

- **Presentation and Leading Discussion** – 10% of semester grade.

The following is required of each student: (1) explore one of the chapters of *Cultivating Humanity*; (2) write a commentary to that chapter – due on Canvas the day before the chapter is discussed by 11:59 pm.; and, (3) prepare questions to lead the class discussion on that chapter.

- **Final Capstone Research Paper** on which the Honors interdisciplinary capstone project is based — 20% of course grade. The paper should demonstrate:

- 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 3, 2021**.

- **Conference Presentation** – 20% 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**.

- **Research Paper** – “Interdisciplinarity as *Artes liberales* in the Contemporary World” – 15% of semester grade.

During the semester, we will read *Cultivating Humanity* and several additional references 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? The paper is due on **May 13, 2021** (7 pages, 12pt font, 1” margin and double spaced).

Assignments

1. Weekly written reflections.
2. Write a commentary and discussion questions on a chapter from *Cultivating Humanity* and lead class discussion on that chapter. Your outline for the chapter is due on Canvas the day before the chapter is discussed by 11:59 pm.
3. In-class presentation of interdisciplinary Honors capstone project.
4. On **February 23, 2021**, a signed Mentor’s Form is due – please email it to Ashley Cosgrove in the Honors office at cosgrove@chapman.edu.
Also, a digital copy of your picture for the Honors Conference booklet is due – please email it to Ashley Cosgrove in the Honors office at cosgrove@chapman.edu.
5. On **March 11, 2021**, a digital copy of the draft of your Honors interdisciplinary research paper (on which your Honors capstone project and Honors Conference presentation is based) must be placed in its assigned Turnitin folder on Canvas by 11:59 p.m. **The draft (10 pages, 12pt font, 1” margin and double spaced), should already present in a compelling way the ideas you are exploring, and should clearly demonstrate the need for interdisciplinarity in your chosen research topic.**
6. On **April 3, 2021** a digital copy of your final Honors capstone research paper (on which your Honors capstone project and Honors Conference presentation is based) is due at 11:59pm. Please email it to me and to Ashley Cosgrove at cosgrove@chapman.edu.
7. On **April 13, 2021**, your official capstone title and description for conference booklet is due. Please email it to me and to Ashley Cosgrove in the Honors office at cosgrove@chapman.edu. The title and description should include the following:

- Title of your presentation
 - Description of presentation – 100 to 120-word limit
 - Major(s) and degree(s)
 - Minor(s)
8. On **April 27, 2021** the completion of the Senior Exit Survey which can be found at <http://www.chapman.edu/academics/honors/exit-survey/index.aspx> is due.
 9. **Saturday, May 1, 2020:** presentation of your Honors capstone project at the Chapman University Honors Annual Conference.
 10. On **May 13, 2021** a copy of your paper “Interdisciplinarity as *Artes liberales* in the Contemporary World” must be placed in its Turnitin folder on Canvas by 11:59 p.m.. **The paper (7 pages, 12pt font, 1” margin and double spaced) should be at once a subjective reflection of the impact of interdisciplinarity in your studies and a rigorous analysis of the possible role of interdisciplinarity in a liberal education.**

N. B. Failure to turn your assignments in on time will affect your grade.

Projected Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Date Topic and Assignment

February

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|--------------------|--|
| 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 | What is Interdisciplinarity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Readings on interdisciplinarity assigned on Canvas |
| February 9 | What is Interdisciplinarity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Readings on interdisciplinarity assigned on Canvas |
| February 11 | What is Interdisciplinarity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Readings on interdisciplinarity assigned on Canvas |

- February 16** Discussions on interdisciplinarity and capstone research papers
- February 18** Discussions on interdisciplinarity and capstone research papers
- February 23** Discussions on interdisciplinarity and capstone research papers
- Signed Mentor's Form due – please email it to me and to Ashley Cosgrove at cosgrove@chapman.edu.
 - A digital copy of your picture for the Honors Conference booklet due – please email it to me and to Ashley Cosgrove at cosgrove@chapman.edu.
- February 25** Discussions on interdisciplinarity and capstone research papers

March

- March 2** Socratic Self-Examination
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 1*
- March 4** Socratic Self-Examination
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 1*
- March 9** Citizens of the World
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 2*
- March 11** Citizens of the World
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 2*
 - Draft of research paper due in Turnitin folder on Canvas by 11:59 p.m.
- March 16** The Narrative Imagination
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 3*
- March 18** The Narrative Imagination
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 3*

- March 23** Spring Break
- March 25** Spring Break
- March 30** The Study of Non-Western Cultures
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 4*

April

- April 1** The Study of Non-Western Cultures
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 4*
- April 3**
- A digital copy of your final Honors capstone research paper (on which your Honors capstone project and Honors Conference presentation is based) is due at 11:59pm. Please email it to me and to Ashley Cosgrove at cosgrove@chapman.edu.
- April 6** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- April 8** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- April 13** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- Official capstone title and description for conference booklet due in the Honors Office, email it to me and to Ashley Cosgrove at cosgrove@chapman.edu.
 - Title of your presentation
 - Description of presentation – 100 to 120-word limit
 - Major(s) and degree(s)
 - Minor(s)
- April 15** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- April 20** Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone Projects
- April 22** African-American Studies

- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 5*

April 27

African-American Studies

- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 5*
- Complete the Senior Exit Survey which can be found at <http://www.chapman.edu/academics/honors/exit-survey/index.aspx>

April 29

Women's Studies

- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 6*

May

May 1

Annual University Honors Conference

May 4

Women's Studies

- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 6*

May 6

The Study of Human Sexuality

- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 7*

May 11

The Study of Human Sexuality

- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 7*

May 13

- Socrates in the Religious University. Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 8*
- The "New" Liberal Education. Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Conclusion*
- Paper due: "Interdisciplinarity as *artes liberales* in the Contemporary World." Please place a copy of your paper in its Canvas Turnitin folder by 11:59 p.m.

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy

Chapman University is a community of scholars that 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 be subject to sanction by the instructor/administrator and referral to the university Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions including expulsion. Please review the full description of Chapman University's policy on [Academic Integrity](#).

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 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 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.

Equity and Diversity Statement

Chapman University is committed to fostering learning and working environments that encourage and embrace equality and 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. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in [Chapman's Harassment and Discrimination Policy](#). Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the [Dean of Students](#), and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.

Protocols for Remote Instruction

1. Instructional Strategies: The course will start with remote instruction, switching to in-person instruction when approved; All lectures will be synchronous, unless specifically indicated by the instructor.
2. Required technology resources for remote instruction is access to WiFi, and a computer or a tablet with camera and speaker or headphones. Cell phone use for remote instruction is highly discouraged.
3. Attire requirements for remote instruction will be the same as for in-person instruction.
4. All office hours and small group meetings between students and faculty will be conducted remotely via Zoom, Teams, or other methods; they will be arranged by Canvas scheduling.
5. Course format may be subject to change with little to no notice.

Safety Protocols for Pivoting to On-Campus Instruction

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Chapman University has developed the CU Safety Back program (CUSBP) and mandatory safety measures (<https://news.chapman.edu/coronavirus/>). The University's mandatory safety measures may be stricter than local, state or federal guidelines and may be subject to change at any time. Students are expected to adhere to the University's safety measures while attending classes, including when entering and exiting classrooms, laboratories, or other instructional areas. Individual faculty may choose to have requirements for their courses that are stricter than the University's. Safety precautions and procedures may change in response to emerging findings and the recommendations of scientific experts and authorities. Refusal to abide by the University's mandatory safety measures or to the safety requirements specific to this course will result in your being asked to leave the area immediately, and may result in an administrative dismissal from this course.

The COVID-19 pandemic requires all of us to accept the possibility that changes in how this course is taught may be required and that some changes may occur with little or no notice. For example, some or all of the in-person aspects of a course may be shifted to remote instruction. If this occurs, you will be given clear instructions as to how to proceed. The

uncertainty of the situation is not ideal for any of us. We must all try to approach this situation with good-will, flexibility, and mutual understanding.

Prepared by Carmichael Peters, Spring 2009.

Revised by Domenico Napoletani, Spring 2021.