COURSE SYLLABUS

HON 498  
Honors Capstone Seminar  

Spring 2011

Catalog Description:

Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor. Each senior Honors student is required to complete the Honors capstone. For this capstone, students will complete an interdisciplinary version of their departmental senior projects using the methodology (and, if possible, the content) of other relevant disciplines. (Offered every semester) 3 credits.

Course Objectives:

1. To 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.
2. To 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.
3. To provide a supportive environment for the completion of the Honors capstone project.

Content:

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 additional relevant disciplines, to present the results of this expanded research to your classmates, to participate in class discussions of your interdisciplinary research and the interdisciplinary research of others, to make a somewhat formal presentation of your interdisciplinary project to the class in the course of the semester, and to present your Honors capstone project at the Chapman University Honors Conference on the first Saturday in May.

Current Required Texts:
The Senior Honors Project information booklet and the Capstone Initiation Forms – both can be found on the “Courses” link of the Honors website.

http://ibc.chapman.edu/Mediasite/Viewer/?peid=a26fc55465c942b1b0abda0fcb2d509f


**Instructional strategies:**

- Weekly seminar meetings

**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 – 5% 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 absence beyond three there will be a 5% deductions from your possible semester grade.

2. **Participation – 5% 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 “research workshop” and to being a community of scholars.

3. **Presentations – 10% of semester grade**
   - Each student will present and lead discussion one of sections taken from the two required texts or on an article on interdisciplinarity.

4. **Research Paper on Interdisciplinarity – 20% of semester grade**
   - Each student will write a research paper on interdisciplinary which will be due at the end of the semester.

5. **Final Interdisciplinary Project and/or Research Paper – 30% of semester grade:**
   - Knowledge: the demonstration of familiarity with the appropriate conceptual and theoretical frameworks for the Honors capstone.
   - 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.

- 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.

6. Conference Presentation – 30% 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.

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.

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 inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Prepared by: Carmichael C. Peters

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