

## HON 202: HONORS CAPSTONE PROJECT (CRN # 1340)

Online – Meetings (see schedule)

### Instructor Information

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### **Course Description:** HON 202, Honors Capstone Project (1 credit)

The Honors Capstone Project requires students to engage in academic research and produce results. Students will work with faculty advisors within the discipline of the project and students will complete all steps of the academic/scientific method from proposal, abstract, research, and presentation. In order to pass [HON 202](#), students will have to publicly present their research to the MxCC community. [HON 202](#) will enhance student written and oral communication skills within academic and professional settings and situations. [HON 202](#) will enrich student use of research methods to understand, to critically respond, and to pose an argument in response to a larger social issue or topic. This course may include service-learning activities and participation within extra-curricular events on and off campus. *Prerequisites: Enrollment within the Honors Program and completion of (at least) the two semesters of [HON 102](#).*

**General Objective:** To specify and articulate student research interests in addition to refining the skills necessary to maintain the rigors of Honors coursework.

**Course Objectives:** HON 202 aims to facilitate the following objectives:

- To enhance student written and oral communication skills formally in order to produce a professional or academic presentation of research.
- To critically think through and complete the academic research process.
- To familiarize students with discipline specific research practices, standards, theories, and styles.
- To provide students with a professional network within Honors program and their faculty mentor.
- To serve as a leader of the MxCC community through public presentation of research and peer mentorship.
- To provide students with the opportunity to publicly present their research with the MxCC campus community at large.
- To articulate the ways in which academic interests become professional studies, projects, or endeavors.
- To exact student use of inter-disciplinary research methodologies tailored toward specific academic interests with the goal of completing the Capstone Project.
- To cultivate professional and academic networking opportunities through faculty collaboration and public presentation.
- To develop and achieve goals in order to complete a long-term project.

To provide students a platform on which to think through their potential and the ethical boundaries that affect academic institutions, academia, and various social institutions

**TAP Competencies:** This course will provide completion to the Honors program and long term research. As an interdisciplinary course, HON 202 may address competencies in all disciplines, while allowing flexibility to meet individual student interests:

### **Written Communication (embedded written competencies 2, 3, and 4; embedded oral competencies 3 and 5)**

- Students will be prepared to develop oral messages and written texts of varying lengths and styles that communicate effectively and appropriately across a variety of settings.

### **Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning (embedded quantitative/mathematical competencies 2 and 3; embedded scientific competencies 4 and 5).**

- Quantitative: Students will learn to recognize, understand, and use the quantitative elements they encounter in various aspects of their lives. Students will develop a habit of mind that uses quantitative skills to solve problems and make informed decisions.
- Scientific: Students will become familiar with science as a method of inquiry. Students will develop a habit of mind that uses quantitative skills to solve problems and make informed decisions.

### **Critical Analysis and Logical Thinking (full competency)**

- Students will be able to organize, interpret, and evaluate evidence and ideas within and across disciplines; draw reasoned inferences and defensible conclusions; and solve problems and make decisions based on analytical processes.

#### **Continuing Learning/Information Literacy (full competency)**

- Students will be able to use traditional and digital technology to access, evaluate, and apply information to the needs or questions confronting them throughout their academic, professional, and personal lives.

#### **Historical Knowledge/Understanding (embedded competencies 5 and 6)**

- Students will study the interrelatedness of various realms of human experience from multiple historical perspectives.

#### **Scientific Knowledge (embedded competencies 4 and 5)**

- Students will gain a broad base of scientific knowledge and methodologies in the natural sciences. This will enable them to develop scientific literacy, the knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts and processes essential for personal decision making and understanding scientific issues.

#### **Social Phenomena Knowledge/ Understanding (full competency)**

- Students will develop an increased understanding of the influences that shape a person's, or group's attitudes, beliefs, emotions, symbols, and actions, and how these systems of influence are created, maintained, and altered by individual, familial, group, situational or cultural means.

#### **Appreciation of the Aesthetic dimensions of Humankind (embedded competency 5)**

- Students will understand the diverse nature, meanings, and functions of creative endeavors through the study and practice of literature, music, the theatrical and visual arts, and related forms of expression.

#### **Appreciation of the Ethical Dimensions of Humankind (full competency)**

- Students will identify ethical principles that guide individual and collective actions and apply those principles to the analysis of contemporary social political problems.

**Course Requirements:** The Honors Capstone Project will prepare students for graduation and to complete long-term research. Completion of this course will depend upon the proposal submitted in HON 102 and to earn a passing score in this class, students must turn in a final research paper explaining their project, its results, and its implications; students must also prepare a presentation to present at the Academic Convivium on April 29, 2016. Since the primary forum for this course is online, students should check Blackboard and their MxCC e-mails regularly. There will be at least two (2) required meetings with Dr. Jones, Dr. Levy, or Dean Minkler throughout the semester – ideally, each student should meet with either instructor prior to the paper's deadline and the other prior to the presentation, but these meetings will also help facilitate completion of the Capstone and all graduation requirements. Failure to complete the Capstone Project will result in a failure to graduate from the Honors Program.

#### **To pass HON 202, students must complete the following:**

- Students MUST complete capstone research.
- Students will complete a revised Capstone Research Paper by **Friday, March 18, 2016**
- Students will prepare a presentation and give the presentation at the Academic Convivium on **April 29, 2016**.
- Students will meet with either Dr. Jones, Dr. Levy, or Dean Minkler *at least* twice (in-person) throughout the semester. Students will also communicate with their faculty mentors.
- Students will attend (3) campus events and report them to the instructors by May 9, 2016.

**Please Note:** Success in any online course requires an individual to structure him/herself to meet the goals, demands, or deadlines of the course. Remember, you've come this far, do what you can to finish strong!

**Class Structure:** This course will work like most online courses you've taken. The syllabus outlines a schedule that will aid students to complete both their Capstone Research Paper and their Capstone Presentations. Details on each week's work will be provided in the Announcements section of the Blackboard course shell. Sometimes, there may be modules to accompany the week's work (for instance, there will be guidelines to aid students as they complete each requirement of either the project or the presentation). **Please read the weekly announcements CAREFULLY as these announcements will outline what one needs to complete each week.**

**Instructor Meetings:** Each student will be assigned to either Dean Minkler, Dr. Jones or Dr. Levy for instructor meetings throughout the semester. Students are required to make *at least* two meetings with their assigned instructor so that the instructors can help facilitate student success. These meetings may concern project progress, presentation preparation, or graduation requirements/advising. Should a student feel the need for more than two meetings, s/he is welcome to schedule more.

**Faculty Mentor Updates:** Each student should keep his/her faculty mentor updated regarding their progress. This can be done via e-mail or with face-to-face meetings. Either way, each student will need to furnish proof of faculty mentor communication *at least* twice throughout the semester. Such proof will be a point of discussion during Instructor Meetings.

**Campus Activities:** Each student will report and briefly describe (1 paragraph in length) three campus events in which they participated or attended throughout the semester. **All campus event paragraphs are due by Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59pm.**

**Capstone Research Paper – 18 March 2016:** This paper was announced last semester and you completed a proposal regarding the topic and the plan for this long-term project. This semester, you will complete the project according to the guidelines on the assignment (assignment is posted on Blackboard). To pass HON 202, you *must* submit a Research Paper.

**Academic Convivium – Capstone Presentation – 29 April 2016:** After you submit your research paper, you will plan a presentation to the campus community on your project. This presentation may take many forms and the instructors will discuss presentation possibilities after the paper submission. **Please set aside the entire day (9:00 – 4:00pm) to participate in this event. The Convivium will occur in Founders Hall (Pavilion and Student Lounge).** Details will follow in Blackboard announcements and modules as the date nears. To pass HON 202, you *must* attend and present at the Convivium.

**Grading:** This course is graded on a scale from A - F at the end of the semester. Each assignment is given the following weights to calculate a student's standing:

Campus Activities – three (20%)  
Research Paper (40%)  
Convivium Presentation (40%)

Students who receive an F in this course will not graduate from the Honors Program. Final grades will be calculated according to the grading percentages listed above and the final grade of A-F will be determined by the following scale:

A = 93-100	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	F = 0-59
B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D = 60-69	

#### **ADDITIONAL SYLLABUS INFORMATION ON COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES**

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/)

#### **Course Schedule**

*Please note: additional meetings or activities may be required. In this event, facilitators will provide advance notice. In addition, the facilitators reserve the right to change or modify any part of this syllabus or outline to meet instructional needs. All changes will be announced and/or distributed in class and on the HON 202 Blackboard course shell.*

#### **REMEMBER TO READ THE WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAREFULLY, WHICH WILL HELP YOU COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENTS FOR EACH WEEK.**

**Week 1 (1/21-1/24):** Introduction to HON 202, Expectations, and Review of Capstone Paper and Presentation Assignments.

**Assignments:** Complete research.

**Week 2 (1/25-1/31):** Complete research and begin paper planning.

**Assignments:** Complete research. Start planning draft.

**Week 3 (2/1-2/7):** Complete research and drafting.

**Assignments:** Complete research. Start drafting

**Week 4 (2/8-2/14):** Drafting the Capstone Project Paper and Instructor Meeting. **\*\*UCONN TRIP, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> – ALL DAY (details forthcoming)\*\***

**Assignments:** Work on paper draft and schedule instructor meeting by Friday, 2/19.

**Week 5 (2/15-2/21):** Drafting the Capstone Project Paper and Instructor Meeting

**Assignments:** Work on paper draft and complete instructor meeting by Friday, 2/19.

**Week 6 (2/22-2/28):** Revising Capstone Project Paper

**Assignments:** Complete draft and revise.

**Week 7 (2/29-3/6):** Revising Capstone Project Paper

**Assignments:** Complete draft and revise.

**Week 8 (3/7-3/13):** Revise Capstone draft and prepare for submission. Apply for Graduation

**Assignments:** Revise and submit Capstone paper. Schedule a meeting with Dr. Jones for graduation by Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Week 9 (3/14-3/20):** Prepare paper for submission. **Research paper due Friday, March 18 by 11:59pm (on Blackboard).**

**Assignments:** Revise and submit Capstone paper. Schedule a meeting with Dr. Jones for graduation by Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**3/21 – 3/27: NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK**

**Week 10 (3/28-4/3):** Planning a Presentation – Parameters for the Academic Convivium Presentation and Apply for Graduation

**Assignments:** Begin planning presentation and making a list of presentation needs (A/V materials, presentation technique, time frames, etc.). Prepare to send a list of needs to Dr. Levy and/or Dr. Jones. **Schedule a meeting with Dr. Jones for graduation by Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Week 11 (4/4-4/10):** Presentation Planning.

**Assignments:** Continue working on presentation. Send presentation needs to Dr. Levy and/or Dr. Jones by April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59pm. Schedule instructor meeting by 4/15.

**Week 12 (4/11-4/17):** Finalizing Presentations and Practice (Mock Presentations – date/time TBA)

**Assignments:** Complete your presentation. Complete instructor meeting by 4/15.

**Week 13 (4/18-4/24):** Finalizing the Presentation

**Assignments:** Complete your presentation.

**Week 14 (4/25-5/1):** Finalize presentation and present at the **Academic Convivium** (Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 4:00pm, Pavilion and Student Lounge – Founders Hall).

**Week 15 – 16 (5/2-5/9): Submit all campus events by 11:59pm on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Honors Graduation Party TBD  
Graduation on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
Good luck on finals!**