**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Number:** HON 498-02  
**Course Title:** Honors Capstone Seminar  
**Credits:** 3  

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

**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 December.

**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:
   b. Susan Moller Okin, “Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?” – on canvas
   c. Clint Smith, “Why Confederate Lies Live On” – on canvas
   d. Peggy Orenstein, “The Miseducation of the American Boy” – on canvas
   e. Sonu Bedi, “What is so Special About Religion? – 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 and Grading Scale**

Your semester grade will be based on class attendance, participation in the semester-long interdisciplinary conversation, the quality of the Capstone Research Paper, a final interdisciplinary project and/or research paper, and its presentation at the Chapman University Honors Conference. Hence, in this course you will receive a placeholder grade of ‘satisfactory progress’ which will change into an appropriate letter grade reflecting total points upon successful completion of the Capstone Research Paper and its presentation.

1. **Grading basis and scale:**
   a. Attendance & participation = 10 points
   b. Outlines of two required readings = 10 points
   c. Three Presentations and leading discussion = 15 points
   d. Draft Capstone Research Paper = 15 points
   e. Final Capstone Research Paper (due April 13, 2024) = 25 points
   f. Honors Conference Presentation (May 4, 2024) of (d) = 25 points

   A total of 50 points may be awarded this semester in this course, with the other 50 points as well as the final grade to be awarded in May, 2024.

2. **Attendance & Participation** – 10% of semester points, awarded at my discretion:
   - 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.
   - 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. **Outlines of required readings** – 10% of semester points
   - Students select one chapter from *Cultivating Humanity*, and turn in an outline of no more than two pages (5 points)
   - Students select one of the four additional readings, but *not* the one related to the chapter in *Cultivating Humanity* already selected, and turn in an outline of no more than two pages (5 points)

4. **Presentations and Leading Discussion** – 20% of semester points
   - The following three presentations are required of each student, #1 and #2 may be group presentations and each accounts for 10% of the grade, # 3 is a draft Capstone Research paper and an individual presentation of it, and accounts for 10% of the grade:
     - **(1a)** explore one of the chapters of *Cultivating Humanity*;
     - **(1b)** write an outline of that chapter, which is to be emailed to me as an attachment the day before the chapter is to be discussed;
     - **(1c)** lead the class discussion of that chapter (5 points).
     - **(2a)** explore one of the assigned readings (by Okin, Smith, Orenstein, or Bedi);
     - **(2b)** write an outline of that chapter, which is to be emailed to me as an attachment the day before the article is to be discussed;
     - **(2c)** lead the class discussion of that reading (5 points).
     - **(3a)** in-class presentation of Capstone project (5 points)
     - **(3b)** draft Capstone Research Paper (15 points)

5. **Final Capstone Research Paper** on which the Honors interdisciplinary capstone project is based – 25% of course grade (awarded in May):
   - **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.
   - **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.
   - **Interdisciplinarity**: the integration of multiple disciplinary insights and/or methods.
   - **The length of the Capstone Research Paper is not to be shorter than 20 pages.**
   - **Final Capstone Research Paper** due on **April 13, 2024** (25% of course grade).

6. **Conference Presentation** – 25% of course grade (awarded in May):
   - 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.

Assignments, in brief

1. *Cultivating Humanity* chapter outline and presentation.
2. Assigned reading outline and presentation.
3. Draft and presentation of interdisciplinary Capstone Research Project.
4. On September 14, 2023, 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.
5. On October 24, 2023, 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)
6. On November 14, 2023 the completion of the Senior Exit Survey which can be found at [http://www.chapman.edu/academics/honors/exit-survey/index.aspx](http://www.chapman.edu/academics/honors/exit-survey/index.aspx) is due. *The failure to turn this in on time will affect your grade.*
7. On 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.*
8. Saturday, May 4, 2024: presentation of your Honors capstone project at the Chapman University Honors Annual Conference.

Prepared by Carmichael Peters, Spring 2009
Revised by Gordon A. Babst, Fall 2023
Projected Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Tuesday, August 29: Introductions
- Class members introduce themselves
- Review syllabus: objectives/expectations of the course
- General introduction to the course

Thursday, Aug. 31: The Old Education and the Think-Academy
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Introduction* – pages 1-14

Tuesday, September 5: Socratic Self-Examination
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 1* – pages 15-49

Thursday, Sept. 7: Citizens of the World
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 2* – pages 50-84
- Student presentation

Tuesday, Sept. 12: The Narrative Imagination
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 3* – pages 85-112
- Student presentation

Thursday, Sept. 14: preliminary progress check on Capstone and Mentors
- Signed Mentor’s Form due – please turn it in at the beginning of class
- A digital copy of your picture for the Honors Conference booklet due – please send it to Ashley Cosgrove in the Honors office.

Tuesday, Sept. 19: No class – work on capstone research paper and on capstone presentation

Thursday, Sept. 21: The Study of Non-Western Cultures
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 4* – pages 113-147
- Student presentation

Tuesday, Sept. 26: “Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?” – on canvas
- Alternative Student presentation

Thursday, Sept. 28: African-American Studies
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 5* – pages 148-185

Tuesday, October 3: “Why Confederate Lies Live On” – on canvas
- Alternative Student presentation

Thursday, Oct. 5: No class – work on capstone research paper and on capstone presentation

Tuesday, Oct. 10: Women’s Studies
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 6* – pages 186-221
- Student presentation

Thursday, Oct. 12: The Study of Human Sexuality
- Read: *Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 7* – pages 222-256
- Student presentation
Tuesday, Oct. 17 “The Miseducation of the American Boy” – on canvas
  ▪ Alternative Student presentation

Thursday, Oct. 19 progress check on Capstone and Mentors

Tuesday, Oct. 24 No class – work on capstone research paper and on capstone presentation
  ▪ official capstone title and description for conference booklet is due – both a digital and a hard copy (turn in to Ashley Cosgrove in the Honors office). This should include the following:
    • Title of your presentation
    • Description of presentation – 100 to 120-word limit
    • Major(s) and degree(s)
    • Minor(s)

Thursday, Oct. 26 Socrates in the Religious University
  ▪ Read: Cultivating Humanity: Chapter 8 – pages 257-292

Tuesday, Oct. 31 “What is so Special About Religion?” – on canvas
  ▪ Alternative Student presentation

Thursday, November 2 The “New” Liberal Education
  ▪ Read: Cultivating Humanity: Conclusion – pages 293-301

Tuesday, Nov. 7 – your official capstone title and description for conference booklet is due – both a digital and a hard copy. This should include the following:
  ▪ Title of your presentation
  ▪ Description of presentation – 100 to 120-word limit
  ▪ Major(s) and degree(s) and any Minor(s)

Thursday, Nov. 9 No class – work on capstone research paper and on capstone presentation

Tuesday, Nov. 14 No class – the completion of the Senior Exit Survey which can be found at http://www.chapman.edu/academics/honors/exit-survey/index.aspx is due.

Thursday, Nov. 16 No class – work on capstone research paper and on capstone presentation

November 20-25 – Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, Nov. 28 Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone projects
  ▪ Student presentation

Thursday, Nov. 30 Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone projects
  ▪ Student presentation

Tuesday, December 5 Presentation and discussion of interdisciplinary Capstone projects
  ▪ Student presentation

Thursday, Dec. 7, 11:30am – draft Capstone Research Paper due, both a digital and a hard copy