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COURSE OUTLINE

IDS 2__ Liberal Arts Capstone

SECTION I

SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER: IDS @ __

COURSE TITLE: Liberal Arts Capstone

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An interdisciplinary course focusing on a theme affecting cross sections of humanity. It is designed to broaden students' perspectives beyond their own culture or discipline and to provide an opportunity for the integration of knowledge gained in General Education courses taken previously. The course will have a rigorous writing component and is required for all students graduating from the Liberal Arts Program.

LECTURE HOURS PER WEEK: 3

CREDIT HOURS: 3

PREREQUISITE: English 102 and completion of 45 credits

SECTION II

A. SCOPE: This course will function as a formal culminating academic experience for students in The Liberal Arts AA degree. It is designed for those who intend to transfer to a four year institution. Through its writing component and interdisciplinary structure, it will provide data to assist faculty in assessing student learning achievements in the four General Education areas: communicating, reasoning scientifically and quantitatively, thinking critically, and developing a global perspective. The course will emphasize accessing, evaluating, organizing, presenting, and synthesizing information relating to a specified topic, which may change from semester to semester.

B. REQUIRED WORK: Students must complete assigned readings and observations in a timely manner, and must submit at least 15 pages of revised, edited prose. Oral and participatory presentations as well as tests and projects will be assigned as appropriate to topics under investigation.

C. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to participate in class discussions and may be asked to confer with the instructor(s) outside of class. The instructor(s) will be available for individual consultation during scheduled office hours.

D. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: The methods of instruction are determined by each instructor or team of instructors and may include but are not limited to lecture, discussion, small group work, collaborative learning, experimentation, distance learning, student presentations, and the use of various technologies.

E. OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES, and ASSESSMENT

The following objectives and outcomes represent the department's core requirements for student achievement in IDS _____.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT METHODS
To demonstrate an understanding of	Student will	As measured by
1. Responsibility for his or her own learning	a) attend regularly and on time b) complete all individual and class projects c) initiate and complete make-up work; d) take responsibility for knowing, completing, and (when necessary) making up assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attendance records • class records • assignment records, including timely drafts
2. Effective verbal communication	a) compose unified, effectively developed, coherent essays and other written work. b) present persuasive oral arguments c) cite sources appropriately in written work d) use visual and other presentation resources in oral presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tests and exercises • written assignments • oral presentations
3. Scientific and quantitative problem solving	a) form and test hypotheses b) interpret graphic representations of quantitative information c) design fruitful scholarly enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • class discussions • tests and exercises • preparation notes and records of capstone presentation
4. Critical thinking	a) infer and clarify distinctions and relationships among texts b) analyze tone, reliability, ambiguity, and evidence in texts c) demonstrate familiarity with two or more basic disciplinary approaches to understanding events, ideas and information d) employ different critical perspectives in analyzing information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • class discussions • tests and exercises • preparation notes and records of capstone presentation
5. Global and aesthetic perspectives	a) explore controversies and cross-cultural perspectives on issues and events b) identify the role of form and craft in relation to function c) explore purposes and effects of ambiguity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • class discussions • tests and exercises • preparation notes and records of capstone presentation
6. Information literacy	a) use online and other media resources as appropriate b) identify interactions between media and content c) evaluate reliability of sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • class discussions • tests and exercises • preparation notes and records of capstone presentation

F. TEXTS AND MATERIALS: As selected by the course instructor(s). Specific texts will depend on disciplines covered by each capstone topic. Supplemental materials will, whenever possible, be available through shared files within the WebCT Vista system

G. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Students are expected to use word processing for written assignments and appropriate visual media for oral presentations except in cases where the instructor indicates otherwise. Students are expected to consult the WebCT Vista course platform for interactions beyond the classroom setting.

H. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

The **Liberal Arts Capstone** course may be taught in three ways:

- by a single instructor teacher with the assistance of other faculty members in areas outside of the instructor's expertise
- by a lead instructor acting as coordinator of other faculty from multiple disciplines
- by two or more instructors in a team teaching configuration.

The 15-page writing minimum is required in all Liberal Arts Capstone courses. Proposals for Capstone courses will be submitted to a Curriculum and Academic Policy (CAP) subcommittee comprising faculty from the following departments: Social and Behavioral Sciences, Science and Math, and Humanities. This committee in consultation with the Department Chairs will review all course proposals in order to assure that individual sections meet the requirements outlined above.