**POLS 7900**

**Security and Resilience Studies Capstone Project**

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**Objective:**

The objective of this course is to give students the opportunity to tie theoretical, conceptual, and methodological benchmarks learned in other courses in the program together into a research or consultative project. Working with relevant members of the faculty, students will design a research topic, including theoretical and methodological approach, conduct the proposed research and produce a capstone paper or capstone project.

**Reading Materials:**

Recommended Textbook: *Producing the Capstone Project,* Lulu, ISBN: 9780557088454

*Other Reading Materials will be unique for each student; based on the research interests of the student and the recommendations of the faculty advisor and/or Capstone Instructor.*

**Grading & Requirements:**

All assignments should be turned in by the assigned deadline. If you need to turn an assignment in late, please talk to me PRIOR to the due date. Consideration for missed/late papers and assignments that I am notified about after the due date will only be accepted with proper documentation. Assignments late without permission or documentable reason may not be graded, at the discretion of the professor.

Research Paper/Project: 60%

Literature Review: 20%

Peer Assessment: 10%

Attendance, Participation, and Discussion: 10%

*Research Paper/Project*

Details of the Research paper/Project will vary based on the type of paper or project the student will propose. Professor Maness and student will agree to expectations for the Paper/Project and will record these expectations in a Capstone Contract Form that is signed by Professor Maness and the student. The form will also indicate the list of required readings for the Literature Review Assignment and for incorporation into the Capstone Paper/Project.

*Literature Review*

Students will produce a graduate-level Literature Review of the required readings that incorporates all required readings on the Capstone Contract Form and incorporates readings from other courses deemed relevant by the student. The assignment will be roughly 15 pages (double spaced, reasonable font, margin, etc.) in length and should be written in a tone and style appropriate for the literature being reviewed. Details of this assignment, including best practices for authoring it, will be discussed further in Week 3 of class.

*Peer Review Assignment*

Each student will be assigned the Capstone of one of his or her classmates for review. Students will receive the rough draft of the Capstone Assignment in Week 9. They will write a 3 page (double spaced, reasonable font, margin, etc.) review of the assigned Capstone paper/project. Students will also present this review as an oral critique after the author of the Capstone paper/project has presented their findings to the class.

**Academic Honesty Statement:**

Warning. The Department of Political Science takes very seriously the issue of academic honesty.  Any student who appears to violate the University’s Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy (see www.osccr.neu.edu/policy.html ) may be referred to the University’s Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.  If a proven violation involves an exam or course assignment, the student shall receive a failing grade for the assignment, in addition to sanctions imposed by the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.  Individual faculty, with the support of the Department, can impose harsher penalties as they deem necessary.  
       
The Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and other types of dishonest activities.  Plagiarism is defined broadly as taking ideas, concepts, or actual words of another person and passing them off as your own work.  Of particular note in recent years is the increase in cut-and-paste plagiarism, which involves downloading phrases from websites or other Internet sources.  Your instructor will clarify specific guidelines on fair use of material for this class, but you should regard this as your official warning.

**Course Schedule**

***I: Introduction to Capstone***

Week 1:

Course Plan & Assignments

Week 2:

*Class Not Held*

Individual meetings with Capstone Instructor to Discuss research topics

***II: Capstone Research Phase***

Week 3:

Literature Review Assignment Discussed

Week 4 – 6:

*Class Not Held.*

Students work on research with their faculty advisor(s) and the Capstone Instructor. Mandatory “check-in” Benchmarks established for week 5 & 6. There will be mandatory meetings with Capstone Instructor for any student not meeting benchmarks.

***Literature Review Assignment DUE Week 5.***

***III: Preparations***

Week 7:

Peer Assessment Assignment Discussed

Presentation Schedule and Plan Discussed

Deadline Reminders and Capstone Expectations reviewed

Week 8 & 9

*Class Not Held*

*Mandatory Meetings with Capstone Instructor to review progress and*

Week 9:

*Rough Drafts of Capstone Projects DUE*

**IV: Capstone Project Seminar Series**

Week 10 – 15

Presentations:

* Students will formally present their Capstone Research Paper/Project
* Presentations will include a Question/Answer period after presentation
* Peer Assessment Assignment (assessment of the presented paper) will be presented by the assigned student.

***Final Draft of Capstone Research Paper/Project DUE Week 15***