

Capstone Experience in the Major Application Template

Name of the Major*: History

Department/Unit: History

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Report of Dept. Vote: 11 Approve 0 Oppose 0 Abstain Date: 3/26/12

*Note: Each major must have a designated Capstone Experience in the Major.

Capstone Experience in the Major Learning Outcomes:

A capstone experience is either a single seminar or a broader culminating experience designed to be offered near the completion of a student's program of study. It is meant to provide students the opportunity to make connections between the key learning objectives of their majors and the General Education Program Outcomes, and to consider how their educations have prepared them for the world beyond the university.

To fulfill this requirement, students will:

- Complete a project that integrates knowledge, skills, and experiences related to those General Education Program Outcomes appropriate to the discipline.
 - Demonstrate critical thinking, quantitative, and communication skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing global society.
 - Demonstrate broad knowledge of the physical, social, and cultural worlds as well as the methods by which this knowledge is produced.
 - Recognize that responsible global citizenship involves personal accountability, social equity, and environmental sustainability.
 - Apply their knowledge and skills, working in interdisciplinary ways to solve problems.
- Demonstrate skills, processes, and resources needed to make a successful transition from college to the world beyond.

Capstone Experience in the Major Criteria:

- Departments will designate a Capstone course(s) or experience for each of its majors.
- The Capstone course(s) or experience should require the use of skills, methodology, and knowledge which demonstrate continuity between the General Education Program Outcomes and the major.
- Capstone courses or experiences should have sufficiently small enrollment caps to allow for active participation by each student and feedback by the instructor.

Capstone Experience in the Major

1. If the department is designating a course or courses for the Capstone Experience, list them here:

History 489: Selected Historical Problems: Colloquium **or** History 490: Selected Historical Problems:

Seminar History 490 is the course number designated for topics in which there is a reasonable expectation that students can conduct primary source research in order to produce their required paper. History 489 is the course number designated for topics in which availability of primary sources is limited and/or in which language skills to conduct that research is also problematic. For these areas of history, the seminar is one in which English-language, secondary literature, is the primary basis for the research paper.

- 2. Describe how the course(s) listed above will require the use of skills, methodologies, and knowledge that demonstrate continuity between the General Education Program Outcomes and the academic major.**

The senior seminar requires writing and oral communication that directly corresponds to the written and oral communications requirements, historical perspectives, social sciences and humanities. Through individual research in sources, students “use scholarly approaches that are primarily analytical, critical, or interpretive,” to help explain “how individuals or groups or individuals are influenced by social, cultural or political institutions,” and “identify the role of human agency in shaping events and historical changes.”

- 3. Describe how the assignments in the course(s) listed above will achieve the following outcomes:**

- a. Students will complete a project that integrates knowledge, skills, and experiences related to those General Education Program Outcomes appropriate to the discipline.**

Students will be expected to read a variety of scholarly arguments and perspectives, requiring analysis and criticism of these interpretations. These basic skills will be developed throughout the major. Students will be required to research secondary and primary source material on a topic of their choosing within the theme of the individual seminar. They will be expected to construct and defend a scholarly argument based on their research and “teach” this knowledge and interpretation to the rest of the seminar members. The paper and presentation is a demonstration of the integration of skills and knowledge developed throughout the major.

- b. Students will demonstrate skills, processes, and resources needed to make a successful transition from college to the world beyond.**

Conducting independent research, analyzing the information, communicating it verbally and in written form is essential for all professional work. These skills translate from History to careers in teaching, business, law and numerous other employment opportunities.

- 4. Capstone courses and experiences should have sufficiently small enrollments which facilitate active participation and allow for feedback from the instructor. Please describe your department’s enrollment policy for the Capstone Experience.**

Capstones will be enrolled at 25, just as the senior seminar is currently capped.

- 5. If your department is designating experiences other than a specific course to meet the Capstone requirement, please list those experience(s) below.**

N/A

- 6. Describe how the Capstone experience(s) listed above will achieve the following outcomes.**

- a. Students will complete a project that integrates knowledge, skills, and experiences related to those General Education Program Outcomes appropriate to the discipline.**

N/A

- b. Students will demonstrate skills, processes, and resources needed to make a successful transition from college to the world beyond.**