

Winthrop University
Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

LART 604: CAPSTONE COLLOQUIUM
Spring 2015

Kinard 105 Wed. 3:00-5:45 p. m.

DR. CLARA PAULINO

Bancroft 110

803-323-3016 (Direct)

e-mail: paulinoc@winthrop.edu

OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday 11 am – 2 pm and Thursday 3:30-4:30 pm

REQUIRED TEXT

Write Tight: How to Keep Your Prose Sharp, Focused, and Concise. William Brohaugh. ISI Books. Wilmington, DE. 2002

(Note: There are plenty of inexpensive used copies of this book on amazon.com. I suggest you look for the Hardcover 2002 edition, but any edition will do.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide all Master of Liberal Arts degree-seeking students with a culminating capstone experience. In the course, students will select, design and write an original research project/paper in consultation with the professor and an outside reader chosen by the student.

The primary objective of this course is to provide a cumulating experience through engaging in a comprehensive project or in writing a lengthy research paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Meeting: You will meet regularly with the Capstone supervisor and together as a group with your fellow Capstone students. These meetings must be treated the same as class attendance in a traditional graduate course. The calendar of group meetings will be decided during the first few class sessions. Individual meetings will be determined by each student in consultation with the instructor.

Securing an Outside Reader With Expertise in the Area of Your Project: Each Capstone student will be required to find and enlist an outside reader who has significant knowledge and

expertise in the student's research topic. This person should be identified and agreed upon as early as possible into the semester. Our meetings (individually and as a group) will be more concerned with the structure and writing of the paper.

Writing/Creating/Doing: The central work product students will generate in this course is a lengthy or comprehensive scholarly or creative project. A scholarly paper will be of sufficient length (**35 pages**) to fully investigate a topic or question. It will be designed and written as a traditional research paper in which you will choose a topic and methodology, and seek to generate new knowledge about the topic. A more creative work will be done with the approval of the program director.

Presentation: In lieu of a final examination, each student will present her/his paper or project to the group during a final meeting. Students may present the paper using PowerPoint, posters, or other means. Further detail on presentations and an evaluation rubric will be provided in class.

EVALUATION

Your Capstone project will be evaluated in four areas,

- 1) Conceptual knowledge of the subject. You will provide evidence of significant research, which will include a listing or works consulted and cited. For creative projects, you will demonstrate a clear understanding of the project's context through explanations, illustrations, and examples.
- 2) Clear and effective arguments, or clear communication of the creative process. You will demonstrate a mastery of your subject matter by an appropriate use of language appropriate to your discipline.
- 3) Mastery of the mechanics of standard written English. Your writing will have well-developed paragraphs and good sentence structure.
- 4) Appropriate research methods, whether by fulfilling the major steps of a scholarly project or by a clear examination of the role of an artist or practitioner with a particular field or endeavor.

Dropping the Course: Winthrop's "N" Grade Policy

Wednesday, March 6th is the last day that you can withdraw from a graduate spring semester course with an automatic "N" grade. Per university policy, students may not withdraw from a course after this date without documented extenuating circumstances.

COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADES

Group and Individual meetings:	20%
Research Paper	70%
Paper Presentation	10%
Total	100%

Human Subjects Research and IRB Approval

If you plan to involve human subjects in your research (for example, conducting interviews), you must clear your research methodology with Winthrop's Institutional Review Board. All students engaging in research on human subjects will undergo CITI training, and apply for approval by the Winthrop University Institutional Review Board, even if their projects are exempt under 45CFR46. The applications must be complete and include all necessary signatures. Any student seeking IRB approval may not begin to collect data for her/his research until s/he has received IRB approval or been informed that the research is exempt. Collecting data prior to receiving IRB approval is grounds for an academic misconduct charge.

Academic Dishonesty

Winthrop University takes an extremely serious view of violations of academic integrity. My policy is one of zero tolerance for **any** form of academic dishonesty. In short, this means that a proven instance of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the **course**, and not solely for the assignment in question. I will discuss this in detail during the first two weeks of class. However, it is your responsibility to talk with me if you have any questions about research, citations, internet use, or paper composition. Such a discussion must take place before you submit a draft of your paper.

Students with Disabilities

Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 323-3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Disability Services, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

Syllabus Change Policy

I intend to adhere to the schedule of assignments and deadlines laid out in this syllabus. However, I may need to make minor changes in the schedule to accommodate special events, inclement weather, unplanned absences or other unforeseen circumstances. I will announce any changes to the syllabus in a timely manner in person and/or by e-mail. You are responsible for this information.

CALENDAR

We will meet on a regular basis to cover the mechanics of a research project and to provide updates and receive feedback on our projects from both the instructor and colleagues.

- January 13** First class, Syllabus and Expectations, Introductions.
An introduction to graduate-level research and capstone projects. An overall outline and guidelines for the research project. Identifying a thesis or question.
- January 27:** Thesis identification **DUE**.
The project: thesis, rationale, and abstract.
The “so what” of the Capstone research and writing.

The “Nuts and Bolts” of research paper writing.

- February 10:** Thesis or question focus and clarification. Thesis, rationale, and abstract **DUE**.
Seeking clarity in your project. (Chapter 1 in *Write Tight*.)
Literature Reviews: What has been already said about your topic or question?
Citation.
- February 24:** Annotated literature citations **DUE**.
Coherence of thesis and lit. review: how each informs and supports the other.
On Writing: Proof reading for content; editing for mechanics and grammar.
- March 9:** Introduction and Literature Review: 12 pages of writing **DUE**.
Methodology: Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods.
How to Identify and Discuss your methodology.
- March 23:** Applying your methodology: the “doing” of the project. 24 pages of writing **DUE**.
Reporting on results: What has your research yielded?
On Writing: Sections, Topic Headings, and Paragraphs.
- April 6:** The “so what” revisited: reporting on your project’s significance.
Discussion of progress and prospects: getting to the finish line.
32 pages of writing **DUE**.
- April 20:** **Full draft of your Capstone paper DUE.**
The supporting items: Title Page, Table of Contents, Charts, Graphs, Bibliography.
Putting it all together: The finished project.
- (Time TBA): Final, Completed Projects DUE.**
Presentation of Capstone projects.