

# Senior Seminar Capstone Project (350 points total)

Fall 2019 / Dr. Paul Cook

Each of you will produce a **capstone project**, either individually or as a member of a team (2-3 individuals). These projects will be designed by you, with approval from the faculty member directing the senior seminar (i.e., me) and faculty mentors from the English and Language Studies department that you (or your team) choose.

Capstone projects should showcase the experience, skills, capacities, and abilities you have developed over the course of your academic career and may be **interdisciplinary** or **multidisciplinary** in nature. Most importantly, however, these projects should do some work for you and your future career/educational plans (e.g., grad school, law school, freelancing, etc.).

Examples of several possible project types are listed below:

## ***Academic Research Project***

The student or team produces an academic research article targeted to a particular publication. Students develop a **research question**, perform appropriate research using various **research methods**, and write it for a specific publication (or potential publications), following all of the journal's requirements (publication *not* required). Alternatively, a team of students might write individual research essays around a central topic that could be submitted as a panel to an undergraduate conference (submission not required). This type of project would be valuable for students wishing to gain experience in preparing conference presentations, in conducting research appropriate for graduate school, or in producing a writing sample for a graduate school application.

## ***Curriculum Development Project***

The student creates a "dream course" relevant to the student's major. This project involves creating a syllabus, learning objectives, a list of required tests, assignments, and supplemental materials for the course. The student will write a short paper explaining the rationale for the choices made in creating the course and how it would fit the objectives of the major.

## ***Academic Writing Sample/Creative Portfolio***

Students produce a high-quality writing sample or a portfolio of creative work that would serve as part of the admissions application for graduate school. Students would work with a mentor to select/produce a substantial body of work that showcases the student's vision, technical expertise, and rationale for selection.

### ***IU Kokomo & Community-Focused Projects***

These projects would vary widely, but could include a proposal for the development of new programs/curricula, writing new copy for the English department website or other promotional materials, the development of exhibits or performances, and work with the community and various campus departments. In the past, students have created blogs and other documents to promote the English department, developed successful proposals for community literacy programs, and conducted research studies on ways to boost participation in campus events. The idea behind this option is that you are using your heightened literacy and analytical skills to have a positive impact on your campus and community.

### ***Book Review Project***

Students would write a publishable or near-publishable book review on a recent(-ish) scholarly monograph (2016 or later) on some element of the massive disciplinary “umbrella” known as modern English studies, which includes such fields and areas as literary studies, critical theory, literary criticism/theory and the history thereof, rhetoric and composition studies, rhetorical theory, technical editing, linguistics/critical language studies of all kinds, history of the English language, film studies, cultural studies, drama/theatre studies, women’s/LGBTQ+ studies, critical race theory, English education (K-12), and so on. See the Files tab in Canvas for a complete handout on this option with further guidelines and advice.

**All capstone projects** will require working with the seminar instructor and a faculty mentor to produce the following components:

- A project proposal with a project plan, goals, deadlines, and criteria (750-1000 words = 100 points).
- A classroom presentation of the project (8-10 minutes for an individual, 15-20 minutes for the group = 50 points) These presentations will take place near the end of the semester. See the Course Syllabus for details.
- A written component that should range from 5000-6000 words for the groups, and should be a minimum of 4000 for individuals = 350 points.