## Course Title
Liberal Studies Capstone Project

## Semester and Year Submitted
Spring 2015

## Credit Hours
1

## Prepared by
Edmund Gert

## Hours Per Week:
- Class: 1
- Lab: 0

## Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)
This course will serve as a program outcomes assessment for students in the Liberal Studies degree program. Students will enroll in this course during the semester in which they plan to graduate. Students will work with a faculty mentor to create a portfolio synthesizing their liberal studies work and a capstone project appropriate to their coursework and goals. Prerequisite: 15 hours of program requirements.

## Prerequisites
15 hours of program requirements

## Text(s):
- Title: N/A

## Author

## Publisher

## Copyright Date

## ISBN #

## Reading Level

## Supplemental Materials:
Other books, audio visual aids, etc.)
Outline for Remainder of Syllabus:

Rationale: This course is created to help Liberal Studies students synthesize what they have learned during their program of study. It serves as an assessment of student learning within the Liberal Studies program.

Expected Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to…

1. Demonstrate effective writing and communication skills.
2. Synthesize their multidisciplinary coursework.

Students graduating with the general studies emphasis will be able to…

3. Determine self-chosen academic and career goals while making connections from their previous coursework to those goals.
4. Begin to formulate a personal philosophy.

Students graduating with the cultural studies emphasis will be able to…

5. Demonstrate understanding of the nature of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied with their own.
6. Analyze the interdependence among people, groups, societies, governments, and nations to find solutions to current global problems and conflicts.

Methods of Instruction:

At the beginning of their final semester, Liberal Studies (General Studies or Cultural Studies emphasis) students will be assigned to a faculty mentor. This faculty mentor will work with the student as he or she prepares the portfolio and capstone project.

Students will complete a portfolio of their multidisciplinary work. The portfolio will include writing samples from at least five of their program courses. Portfolio work should demonstrate students' ability to communicate in writing. Faculty will work with students to ensure that their final portfolio is free of errors.

Students will also create an original capstone project which will be presented to the capstone committee.

Emphasis in General Studies: The original project will be a future-goals paper. Students will research a career field they are interested in pursuing and will emphasize if and how their multidisciplinary coursework has helped or will help them in pursuit of those goals. Those planning to transfer to a four-year university should also include a plan of future study.

Emphasis in Cultural Studies: The original project will be an analysis of chosen culture(s) through comparison with their own. Students will conduct academic research on their chosen culture(s) and create an original 3-5 page project. Students will identify varying worldviews on
the same issue. Students may also be required to present their findings orally to the capstone committee.

Assessment (including critical thinking measurements):

The student will receive a letter grade based on the capstone committee's evaluation of the student's portfolio of writing samples, participation with their capstone mentor, and final capstone project. Merit will be determined also by the individual student's commitment to academic growth and attention to detail.

Learning Objectives:

Unit 1: Through the creation of their portfolio, students will demonstrate that they can:

1. employ effective communication skills and
2. synthesize their previous coursework.

Unit 2 (general studies emphasis): With their capstone project, students will demonstrate that they can:

1. employ effective written communication skills;
2. correlate their study with their future goals;
3. synthesize their previous coursework; and
4. express their personal philosophy.

Unit 2 (cultural studies emphasis): With their capstone project, students will demonstrate that they can:

1. employ effective written and oral communication skills;
2. demonstrate understanding of culture through comparisons with their own culture; and
3. analyze the interconnectedness of various cultures and the global community.