

# LASS 4881 - General Studies Capstone Part 1

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43867,

Credit hours: 2

## Instructor

Kyle Starkey

Email: ktstarkey@ysu.edu

## Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Kyle Timothy Starkey, PhD

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

*PhD., History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*

*Master's, History, Youngstown State University*

*Bachelor's, History & German, Allegheny College*

Instructor Office Location: DeBartolo 536

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-3458

## Course Description

4881. General Studies Capstone Part 1. Practical and applied learning within the primary concentration area. Development of a capstone project over two courses. Part 1 is conception and approval of the project and initial research. Part 2 is execution of the project. The project may be a field experience or scholarly thesis. The capstone project must be approved by the professor in Part 1. Prereq.: Completion of 20 s.h. 2 s.h.

## Course Readings

| Group    | Title                                                                 | Author                                                  | ISBN |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Required | What is career readiness?                                             | NACE – National Association of Colleges + Employers.    |      |
| Required | Explore all Eight Career Readiness Competencies.                      | NACE – National Association of Colleges + Employers     |      |
| Required | Understanding the Capstone Experience Through the Voices of Students. | McGill, P.T.                                            |      |
| Required | The Capstone Project – Jenn Poggi                                     | TEDx Talks                                              |      |
| Required | Capstone and Thesis Research Guide: Choosing a Topic                  | University of Wisconsin-Superior – Jim Dan Hill Library |      |
| Required | Essay Writing                                                         | Purdue University                                       |      |
| Required | Writing a Literature Review                                           | Online Writing Lab (OWL), Purdue University             |      |
| Required | Literature Reviews                                                    | UNC-Chapel Hill – The Writing Center                    |      |
| Required | Capstone and Thesis Research Guide: Writing a Research Proposal       | University of Wisconsin-Superior – Jim Dan Hill Library |      |
| Required | Proposal Examples                                                     | Utah State University                                   |      |
| Required | How to Write a Research Methodology for Your Academic Article.        | Expert Journals.                                        |      |
| Required | Capstone and Thesis Research Guide: The Methodology                   | Jim Dan Hill Library – University of Wisconsin-Superior |      |

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

## Course Schedule

| Week of | Reading(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Proposed Topic                        | Due/To Prepare for Class                                                                                                                                         |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8/24    | What is career readiness? NACE – National Association of Colleges + Employers. <a href="https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/">https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/</a><br>Explore all Eight Career Readiness Competencies. NACE – National Association of Colleges + Employers. <a href="https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/#competencies">https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/#competencies</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Module 1: Applying the BGS Degree     | Module 1 Discussion (Due: 08/30)<br>Pre-Assessment Form (Due: 08/30)                                                                                             |
| 8/31    | McGill, P.T. (2012). Understanding the Capstone Experience Through the Voices of Students. The Journal of General Education 61(4), 488-504. <a href="https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/jge.2012.0029">https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/jge.2012.0029</a> .<br>The Capstone Project – Jenn Poggi. TEDx Talks. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWxwwLP2THU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWxwwLP2THU</a><br>What is career readiness? NACE – National Association of Colleges + Employers. <a href="https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/">https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/</a><br>Explore all Eight Career Readiness Competencies. NACE – National Association of Colleges + Employers. <a href="https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/#competencies">https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/#competencies</a> | Module 2: What is a Capstone Project? | Module 2 Discussion (Due: 09/06)<br>Career Readiness & Competency Reflection (Due: 09/06)<br>Feedback Fruits Activity (Due: 09/06)                               |
| 9/7     | Capstone and Thesis Research Guide: Choosing a Topic. University of Wisconsin-Superior – Jim Dan Hill Library. (n.d.) <a href="https://library.uwsuper.edu/Capstone/Topic">https://library.uwsuper.edu/Capstone/Topic</a> .<br><br>Essay Writing. Purdue University. (n.d.) <a href="https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/index.html">https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/index.html</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Module 3: Choosing a Topic            | Module 3 Discussion (Due: 09/07)<br>Capstone Paper Topic Assignment (Due: 09/13)                                                                                 |
| 9/14    | Writing a Literature Review. Online Writing Lab (OWL), Purdue University (n.d.). <a href="https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/conducting_research/writing_a_literature_review.html">https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/conducting_research/writing_a_literature_review.html</a><br>Literature Reviews. UNC-Chapel Hill – The Writing Center (n.d.). <a href="https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/literature-reviews/">https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/literature-reviews/</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Module 4: The Larger Discussion       | Module 4 Discussion (Due: 09/20)                                                                                                                                 |
| 9/21    | Capstone and Thesis Research Guide: Writing a Research Proposal. University of Wisconsin-Superior – Jim Dan Hill Library (n.d.). <a href="https://library.uwsuper.edu/Capstone/Proposal">https://library.uwsuper.edu/Capstone/Proposal</a> .<br>Proposal Examples. Utah State University (n.d.). <a href="https://qanr.usu.edu/mnr/proposal-examples">https://qanr.usu.edu/mnr/proposal-examples</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Module 5: Creating Your “Sales Pitch” | Research Proposal w/ Annotated Bibliography [Draft Peer Revision] (Due: 09/27)<br>Research Proposal w/ Annotated Bibliography [Draft to Instructor] (Due: 09/27) |

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| 9/28 | How to Write a Research Methodology for Your Academic Article. Expert Journals. June 21, 2017. <a href="https://expertjournals.com/how-to-write-a-research-methodology-for-your-academic-article/">https://expertjournals.com/how-to-write-a-research-methodology-for-your-academic-article/</a><br>Capstone and Thesis Research Guide: The Methodology. Jim Dan Hill Library – University of Wisconsin-Superior. (n.d.). <a href="https://library.uwsuper.edu/Capstone/MethodSection">https://library.uwsuper.edu/Capstone/MethodSection</a> . | Module 6: Implementing a Methodology | Module 6 Discussion (Due: 10/04)                                 |
| 10/5 | No Readings in this Module                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Module 7: Finalizing the Sales Pitch | Research Proposal w/ Annotated Bibliography [Final] (Due: 10/11) |

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.