

LASS 4881 - General Studies Capstone Part 1

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 43868,

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)	
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	

All readings will be provided through links, pdfs, and videos

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. https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/ Explore all Eight Career Readiness Competencies. NACE – National Association of Colleges + Employers. https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/#competencies	Module 1: Applying the BGS Degree	Module 1 Discussion (Due: 08/30) Pre-Assessment Form (Due: 08/30)
8/31	McGill, P.T. (2012). Understanding the Capstone Experience Through the Voices of Students. <i>The Journal of General Education</i> 61(4), 488-504. https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/jge.2012.0029 . The Capstone Project – Jenn Poggi. TEDx Talks. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWxwwLP2THU . What is career readiness? NACE – National Association of Colleges + Employers. https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/ Explore all Eight Career Readiness Competencies. NACE – National Association of Colleges + Employers. https://www.nacweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/#competencies	Module 2: What is a Capstone Project?	Feedback Fruits Activity (Due: 09/06) Module 2 Discussion (Due: 09/06) Career Readiness & Competency Reflection (Due: 09/06)
9/7	Capstone and Thesis Research Guide: Choosing a Topic. University of Wisconsin-Superior – Jim Dan Hill Library. (n.d.) https://library.uwsuper.edu/Capstone/Topic . Essay Writing. Purdue University. (n.d.) https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/index.html .	Module 3: Choosing a Topic	Module 3 Discussion (Due: 09/13) Capstone Paper Topic Assignment (Due: 09/13)
9/14	Writing a Literature Review. Online Writing Lab (OWL), Purdue University (n.d.). https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/conducting_research/writing_a_literature_review.html Literature Reviews. UNC-Chapel Hill – The Writing Center (n.d.). https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/literature-reviews/ .	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.). https://library.uwsuper.edu/Capstone/Proposal Proposal Examples. Utah State University (n.d.). https://qanr.usu.edu/mnr/proposal-examples	Module 5: Creating Your “Sales Pitch”	Research Proposal w/ Annotated Bibliography [Draft Peer Revision] (Due: 09/27) Research Proposal w/ Annotated Bibliography [Draft to Instructor] (Due: 09/27)
9/28	How to Write a Research Methodology for Your Academic Article. Expert Journals. June 21, 2017. https://expertjournals.com/how-to-write-a-research-methodology-for-your-academic-article/ Capstone and Thesis Research Guide: The Methodology. Jim Dan Hill Library – University of Wisconsin-Superior. (n.d.). https://library.uwsuper.edu/Capstone/MethodSection .	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.