

## **GRM 492: Capstone Project (1cr. Fall/Spring)**

Prerequisite: 1 400-level course

Corequisite: GRM 420, 435, 445, 455 or 460

*During the senior year, each German major will register for GRM 492 concurrently with another 400 level course. The project will be supervised by the student's 400-level instructor. It is the student's responsibility to arrange meetings and meet deadlines as indicated below.*

### Description

The Capstone Project will consist of a 5-10 page paper (or multimedia equivalent, e.g. web-based materials) in German, in which the student considers the cumulative impact of the German major on his/her undergraduate education and also considers potential future applications of what s/he has learned. Students will be given a list of possible topics to address, including:

- their ability to communicate in a second language
- the application of their own ( German) language skills to tasks and situations outside of the classroom
- their understanding of the practices and perspectives of another culture
- connections between the products of another culture and their own culture
- the application of German studies to other areas of their studies (inter- and cross- disciplinary thinking)
- appreciation for the uniqueness of perspectives and knowledge that are available only through the foreign language and its cultures
- their understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the languages studied and their own
- their understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own
- impact of the Study Abroad experience(s) on their understanding of language, culture, and self
- prospects for life - long learning, through use of the language and engagement with the culture in their personal lives

### Course goals

- integration of linguistics, cultural and literary studies in German
- synthesis of undergraduate studies in the major(s)
- completion of a polished piece of writing in German that demonstrates the student's proficiency level in written expression

### Grading

The grade will be based entirely upon the final product: 50% on content on 50% on language.

## Syllabus

Each project will follow a specific series of steps:

- a two-page reflective statement due in the **third week of the semester**
- a one-page topic proposal based on this reflective statement and related discussions with the students assigned faculty member due in **week 5**
- an outline due in **week 7**
- a rough draft due in **week 12**
- a final version due **at the end of the semester**