Capstone Courses in Psychology

Capstone Courses Description & Expectations:
Capstone courses are designed to bring closure to the major and provide students with the opportunity to apply and integrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired in a comprehensive and challenging course. The department offers several types of Capstones. The common expectation for the courses is that students learn independently, and synthesize material from previous psychology classes with new material presented in the Capstone courses.

Senior Seminar courses typically assign topics for students to research using scientific journal articles (instead of requiring a text). Additional assignments include writing article summaries/critiques, participation in class discussion, leading class discussion on particular articles, writing a final literature review paper, and a formal oral presentation.

In History and Systems of Psychology, a required textbook is assigned. The text serves as a foundation from which students are expected to learn from independently. In the online version of the course, students do NOT receive lectures, powerpoint slides, or study guides. While there are lectures/discussions in the face-to-face class, students are expected to come to class having already mastered the material in the textbook and prepared to discuss the concepts presented in it. Students who have difficulty comprehending the material are encouraged to make use of the library or the internet for assistance. Students are also encouraged to form study groups with classmates. Common assignments are frequent quizzes, writing assignments/brief papers, a final project, and unit exams.

Students are allowed to complete one Capstone course. If students take a Capstone and do not earn a grade of C or better, they have one more opportunity to successfully complete Capstone, either by repeating the same Capstone or taking a different Capstone course. Students completing Honors Thesis II may complete another Capstone course, if desired. No Capstone courses may be completed in the same term as Research Methods II.

Pre-Requisites for All Capstones:
- Psychology Major
- Senior Standing (90+credits)
- PSYC 1101 General Psychology with a grade of C or better within two attempts
- One STAT class (1200, 1201, or 1222) with a grade of C or better within two attempts
- PSYC 2101 Research Methodology I with a grade of C or better within two attempts
- PSYC 2103 Research Methodology II with a grade of C or better within two attempts

Capstone Choices are:
- PSYC 4603 History and Systems
- PSYC 4606 Advanced Topics
- PSYC 46__ Senior Seminar
- PSYC 4691 Honors Thesis II
Do I need a “W” – Writing Intensive or “O” – Oral Communication Credits??

According to the UNC at Charlotte General Education Requirements, all students must complete:

- one “W” class worth 3 credits in the major (“writing in the discipline”)
  - Psychology majors take Research Methods II to meet this requirement
- one “W” class worth 3 credits in OR outside the major (“writing in the discipline”)
  - Psychology majors may take ANY class outside of psychology designated as writing intensive
- one “O” class worth 1 to 3 credits – this course may be in OR outside the major
  - Psychology majors may take “Seminar in …” (see below) to meet this requirement
  - Psychology majors may take ANY class outside of psychology designated as oral communication as long as course pre-requisites have been successfully completed
- If a course is designated as both “W” and “O,” the one course can fulfill both requirements
  - For Psychology majors, “Seminar in…” fulfills one “W” and “O”
- Associate Degrees – exempt from 1 “W” class and an “O” class

NOT “W” – Writing Intensive; OR “O” - Oral Communication

PSYC 4603 History & Systems of Psychology (3 credits) – (NO “W” or “O”)
  - Pre-Requisites: None Beyond those listed Above
  - Course Description: Historical antecedents and origins of modern psychology. Emphasis on influential psychological systems such as behaviorism and psychoanalysis. Note: May not be taken concurrently with Research Methods II.

PSYC 4606 Advanced Topics in Psychology (3 credits) – (NO “W” or “O”)
  - Pre-Requisites: None Beyond those listed Above
  - Course Description: Examination of special psychological topics. Topics vary by semester and instructor. Note: May not be taken concurrently with Research Methods II.

“W” – Writing Intensive; & “O” - Oral Communication

PSYC 4613 Seminar in Physiological Psychology (3 credits) – (W, O)
  - Pre-requisites: PSYC 3113 (Physiological Psychology) or equivalent strongly recommended
  - Course Description: Intensive study of selected topics in physiological psychology, such as psychopharmacology, biofeedback and self-regulation, and sleeping and waking. Emphasizes development of written and oral communication skills.

PSYC 4619 Seminar in Experimental Psychology (3 credits) – (W, O)
  - Pre-Requisites: None
  - Course Description: In-depth examination of an area of current concern in the psychological laboratory. Each semester has a different focus such as discrimination, learning, memory, experimental analysis of behavior and attention. Emphasizes development of written and oral communication skills.
PSYC 4625 Seminar in Developmental Psychology (3 credits) – (W, O)
**Pre-Requisites:** PSYC 2120 (Child Psychology), PSYC 2121 (Adolescent Psychology), OR PSYCH 2124 (Adulthood & Aging) with a grade of C or better
**Course Description:** Concentrated examination of selected current issues and research in a field of developmental psychology. Emphasizes development of written and oral communication skills.

PSYC 4630 Seminar in Social Psychology (3 credits) – (W, O)
**Pre-Requisites:** PSYC 2130/3130 (Introduction to Social Psychology) with a grade of C or better
**Course Description:** Intensive study at the advanced level of topics of current research and theoretical interest in social psychology. Emphasizes development of written and oral communication skills.

PSYC 4650 Seminar in Human Adaptation & Behavior (3 credits) – (W, O)
**Pre-Requisites:** Permission of the department
**Course Description:** Intensive reading and discussion in selected areas of psychology, such as stress, personality, emotions and psychopathology. Emphasizes development of written and oral communication skills.

PSYC 4655 Seminar in Community Psychology (3 credits) – (W, O)
**Pre-Requisites:** PSYC 2150 (Psychology of Adjustment) and PSYC 2165/3155 (Introduction to Community Psychology) with a grade of C or better
**Course Description:** Application of psychological research findings to specific problems in the community with emphasis on problems hypothesized directly to affect psychological well-being. Emphasizes development of written and oral communication skills.

PSYC 4660 Seminar in Health Psychology (3 credits) – (W, O)
**Pre-Requisites:** PSYC 2160 (Health Psychology) with a grade of C or better
**Course Description:** Detailed examination of issues relevant to health and behavior. Readings and discussion of health-related concepts and controversies current in the professional literature. Emphasizes development of written and oral communication skills.

PSYC 4670 Seminar in Industrial Psychology (3 credits) – (W, O)
**Pre-Requisites:** PSYC 2171 (Introduction to Organizational Psychology) with a grade of C or better
**Course Description:** Topics of current concern in industrial/organizational psychology and related disciplines, including issues that affect individuals at work and organizations in society. Emphasizes development of written and oral communication skills.

PSYC 4691 Honors Thesis II (3 credits) – (W, O)
**Pre-Requisites:** PSYC 2101 (Research Methodology I), PSYC 2103 (Research Methodology II), & PSYC 4690 (Honors Thesis I) with a grade of B or better; permission of instructor; and approval of a proposal through the Honors College Application to Candidacy process the semester prior to taking the course.
**Course Description:** Completion of independent Honors research, including the preparation and defense of a formal Honors thesis. Note: May not be taken concurrently with Research Methods II.