Senior Capstone

F497 Capstone in French (1 cr.). A senior level summative experience for French majors that integrates students’ undergraduate study in the discipline. Students showcase academic progress through a capstone portfolio, a reflective journal, discussions with a faculty capstone director, and by a final presentation to students and faculty.

Rationale

The purpose of the senior Capstone for French majors is to provide an opportunity for students to integrate the knowledge and abilities learned in their course work in the content areas of the major, namely, language, literature, and culture.

Structure

Each senior who is approaching graduation will choose a faculty director who will:
1) assess, along with a second reader that the director will identify, the students’ portfolio and final presentation;
2) hold regular meetings with the student to discuss and make suggestions about the contents of the portfolio and the final presentation;
3) give regular feedback on the reflective journal kept by the student during the semester in which the capstone is completed.

As students majoring in French approach the end of their course work, the French advisor will set up a meeting to discuss the capstone experience. At that time, the students will receive a handout that outlines the requirements for the work to be done, and the advisor will discuss with them how to prepare to reflect on the work they have done in French at IUPUI and how to put together the portfolio.

F497 will function as an independent study course. In consultation with the French advisor, French majors will select a faculty member as a capstone director before registering for the capstone course. During the first week of the semester in which a senior is registered for F497, the faculty director will meet with the student to plan a time line for all required work, as well as set a date for the final
presentation. The faculty director will then identify a faculty colleague who will serve as second reader for the portfolio.

Assignments

The required assignments for the capstone are as follows:

1. **Portfolio.** The portfolio will showcase a research project that the student undertook in a prior course at IUPUI. The capstone work will consist of a substantial revision of the original research piece, leading to an independently derived expansion of the topic of the previous research project. The portfolio should show evidence of the integration of the three major content areas of the discipline: language, culture, and literature. The portfolio must be completed three weeks prior to final exams.

2. **Reflective journal.** The student will keep an electronic reflective journal over the course of the semester while compiling the portfolio. This journal will give the student the opportunity to record what has been learned through the capstone experience. It will also demonstrate how the student has consciously integrated the major content areas while broadening knowledge of the subject and enhancing critical thinking skills. The journal will also provide an opportunity for the student to reflect on how the capstone experience has contributed to the attainment of the goals outlined in the *Principles of Undergraduate Learning*.

3. **Discussions with faculty director.** The student will have regularly scheduled meetings and periodic electronic exchanges with the faculty director throughout the semester. The faculty member will mentor the student, provide feedback on the journal, and help prepare the student for the final presentation.

4. **Final presentation.** The student will give a final presentation a minimum of one week prior to the exam period at the end of the semester. The faculty director and the French faculty will attend the presentation, and students will also be invited to share in their colleague’s experience. The format for the final presentation will be chosen and discussed with the faculty director midway through the semester. The goal of the presentation is to demonstrate the student’s abilities and level of proficiency in French through the portfolio exercise and the oral presentation.
Evaluation:
The final grade will be based on rubrics established by the faculty in French and communicated to the student in the handout outlining the Capstone experience. The Capstone director will be responsible for averaging these scores and assigning the final grade.

1. Organization and content of portfolio 25%
2. Discussions with faculty 25%
3. Quality of reflective journal of portfolio 25%
4. Quality of final presentation director 25%

Schedule of Work
Week 1: Meet to establish time line for work and date of final presentation
Week 2: Faculty director identifies a second reader
Week 3: Student meets with director
Week 5: Student meets with director
Week 7: Student meets with director
Week 9: Student meets with director
Week 11: Meeting of student and director for update on work; student issues invitations to final presentation
Week 12: Student submits copies of portfolio to faculty director and to second reader for evaluation reader for evaluation
Week 13: Faculty director and student review final presentation format and determine work that remains to be done
Week 14: Final presentation