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**