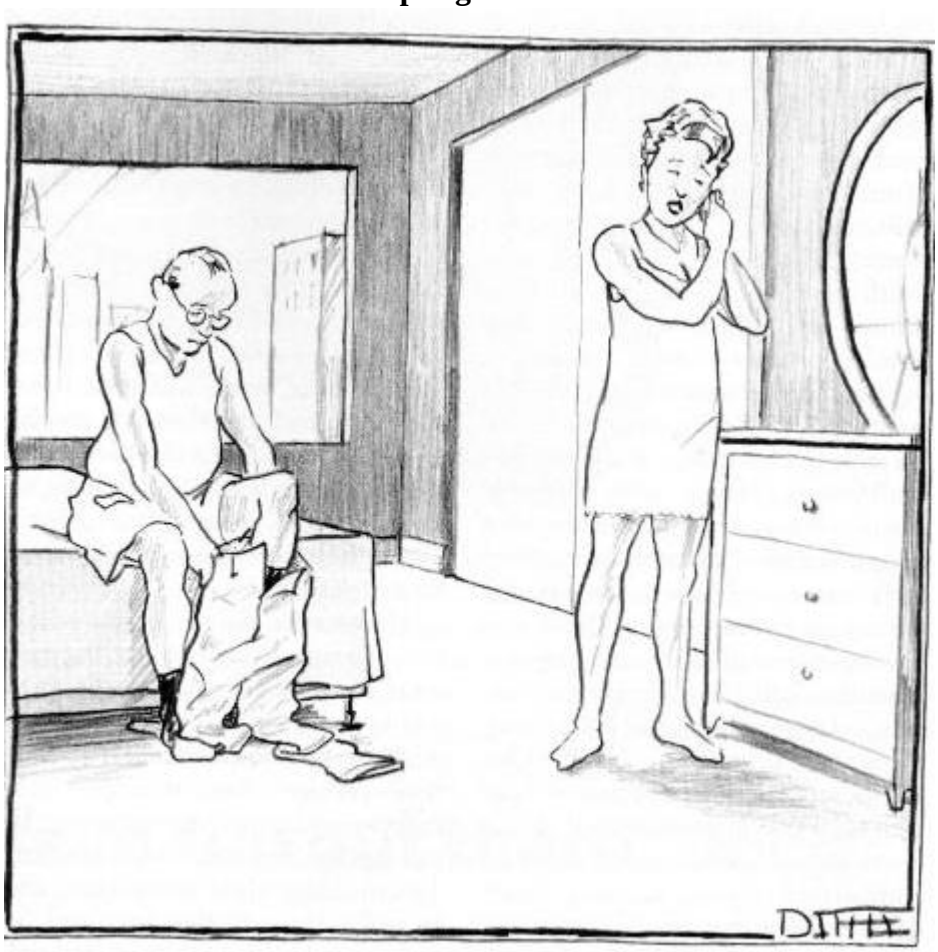
Westminster College
Modern Languages 601—Capstone
Spring 2012



"It's a French film, so we don't have to shower."

Instructor: Jeff Bersett
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phone: 7259
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COURSE OVERVIEW

The goal of this course, stated in the simplest terms, is for you to use the material and skills you have learned as a modern language major to prepare three items: a portfolio, a presentation that references your study abroad experience, and a research project. The first should be a thoughtful summation of your experiences as a student in this department (please see Attachment 1), the second will address some substantive aspect of your time away from Westminster, and the third will be (hopefully) interesting, useful, focused and well written (please see Attachment 2). We will practice all the elements necessary to successfully achieve these objectives, and hopefully have fun doing so.

OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

The department of Modern Languages seeks the following outcomes for its graduates. Assessment for these outcomes will be achieved through the course material listed above, but specific devices for assessment are given below in parentheses following each outcome. Capstone students will be able to:

- Communicate effectively at the advanced level of proficiency, as described in the *ACTFL Guidelines*. (Portfolio, Capstone project)
- Demonstrate an understanding of relevant aspects of high and popular culture in their original context. (Portfolio, study abroad presentation, Capstone project)
- Make effective connections to additional areas of knowledge relevant to the use of foreign languages in other disciplines. (Portfolio, study abroad presentation, Capstone project)
- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of world communities. (Portfolio, study abroad presentation, Capstone project)
- Compare and contrast their own language and culture to another language and culture, and demonstrate an understanding that there are multiple ways of viewing the world. (Portfolio, study abroad presentation, Capstone project)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Westminster College's policy on academic integrity will be rigorously enforced in this class. Please refer to the Student Handbook and the College Catalog for details of the policy. If you are not certain as to what constitutes an infraction of this policy, such as cheating or plagiarism, do not hesitate to consult the instructor (BEFORE YOU TURN IN ANY WORK ABOUT WHICH YOU MAY HAVE DOUBTS). The policy as it applies to this course will be as follows: **If you commit an act of plagiarism or are caught cheating in any way on any assignment (or commit any other violation of the College policy), you will fail the course and be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.**

WRITING GUIDELINES: As part of the College's policy on academic integrity, it is expected that all student writing (and presentational material, for that matter) be done individually, without assistance from other students or translation software. Violations of this more detailed statement of expectations will likewise result in failure of the course and notification of the VP of Academic Affairs. **Don't do it!**

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Corey Shaw, Director of Disability Support Services, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall. phone: 724-946-7192 e-mail: shawcj@westminster.edu

CELL PHONES

Cell phones are not allowed in my classroom. They must be turned OFF and put away. If I see your cell phone once class has begun, you will be marked absent for the day, no questions asked.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Component	Percentage
Portfolio	15%
Study abroad presentation	10%
Project	50%
	-35% final copies
	-15% drafts
Project presentation	25%

LETTERS AND NUMBERS

A	93-100	B+	88-89	C+	78-79	D+	68-69	F	0-59
A-	90-92	B	83-87	C	73-77	D	63-67		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

CALENDAR

WEEK 1

Date	**Activity**
1/17	Course introduction and other fun
1/19	Scavenger hunt / Topical cogitation, day 1

WEEK 2

Date	**Activity**
1/24	Scavenger hunt / Topical cogitation, day 2
1/26	Scavenger hunt / Topical cogitation, day 3

WEEK 3

Date	**Activity**
1/31	**TOPIC DEADLINE**
2/2	Progress reports 1

WEEK 4

Date	**Activity**
2/7	Progress reports 1
2/9	(Deadline for appointments w/ Prof. Dorita Bolger)

WEEK 5

Date	**Activity**
2/14	Writing workshop
2/16	Writing workshop

WEEK 6

Date	**Activity**
2/21	**2 pages due, plus preliminary bibliography** Portfolio workshop
2/23	Portfolio workshop

WEEK 7

Date	**Activity**
2/28	**2 pages due** **Portfolios due** **Study abroad presentations**
3/1	**Study abroad presentations**

WEEK 8

Date	**Activity**
3/6	**Spring Break—no class**
3/8	**Spring Break—no class**

WEEK 9

Date	**Activity**
3/13	**2 pages due.** Portfolio presentations
3/15	Portfolio presentations

WEEK 10

Date	**Activity**
3/20	Progress Reports 2
3/22	Progress Reports 2

WEEK 11

Date	**Activity**
3/27	**2 pages due.**
3/29	Writing workshop.

WEEK 12

Date	**Activity**
4/3	**2 pages due.**
4/5	**Easter Break—no class**

WEEK 13

Date	**Activity**
4/10	**Monday classes meet—no class**
4/12	Presentation workshop

WEEK 14

Date	**Activity**
4/17	Presentation workshop
4/19	**WRITTEN PROJECT DEADLINE**

WEEK 15

Date	**Activity**
4/24	**Final Presentations**
4/26	**Final Presentations**

WEEK 16

Date	**Activity**
5/1	**Final Presentations**
5/3	**Final Presentations**

Attachment 1

Department of Modern Languages

Capstone Portfolio

The Capstone Portfolio consists of **a collection of materials** compiled by French, Spanish (and Intercultural Studies) majors during the Senior Capstone course (FR / SPA 601) and a short **narrative reflection** upon those materials.

The collection of materials is designed to **document and display the (personal and intellectual) growth and development** of the student that took place during his / her experience as a language / intercultural studies major at Westminster College, and that will hopefully continue to take place as a result of the skills and knowledge s/he acquired as a result of this experience.

Compiling the Capstone Portfolio is envisioned as an opportunity for students **to bring together** various strands from their academic, socio-cultural, intellectual, international, and pre-professional life of the last three or four years and **through reflection and analysis**, **to assign meaning, relevance, and importance** to these various parts and perhaps to the whole.

The following materials could be included in the Capstone Portfolio:

- **Writing samples** from courses numbered FR/SPA 301 and above, for example, compositions, research essays, projects, take-home exams, materials from courses taken during study abroad
- **Study abroad** journal (or excerpts); relevant **photos** with captions
- **Presentation** materials (powerpoint slides, outlines, videos taken of you delivering, for example)
- Recordings of **your speech** in French / Spanish (or both)
- Written versions (in English and target language) of **Capstone project**
- **Other?**
- **Reflection paper (3-5 pages)** in which you *address* the materials (above or other) that you have chosen to include

Attachment 2

Department of Modern Languages

Capstone Project

The Capstone Project consists of two primary components:

1) A written research project.

-Your project should be useful, focused and well written, on a topic having to do with your preparation in the major. The topic must be approved by the supervising instructor, and the student may need to work with an additional instructor (if the project is beyond the supervising instructor's field of expertise).

-The paper will be 12-15 pages, written first in the target language, then adapted into English.

-The paper will meet Modern Language Association formatting and documentation guidelines, unless otherwise approved.

-The research for the paper should be thorough, and use appropriate secondary source material.

-Progress deadlines can be found in the course syllabus. Grading of your regular progress will be on a credit/no credit basis.

-Grade of final draft to be determined by consultation between participating instructors, and will be based on content, writing, and the thoroughness of the research performed.

2) A public presentation of your project.

-Students will make their presentations at the end of the semester (see course syllabus for dates).

-It may take any form deemed appropriate by the student, but usually consists of a Power Point presentation which summarizes the student's work and findings.

-The presentation will be 15-20 minutes, plus 10 minutes for questions.

-Grade to be determined by the supervising instructor, and will be based on content, organization, and clarity.