Westminster College  
School of Business  
Fall, 2018  
BA 674 – Honors Research

Instructor: Brian A. Petrus, MBA, PHR  
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Class Meeting Times: NA  
Classroom: NA

Office Hours:  
MWF: 10:30am-11:30am, 1:00pm-1:50pm  
TR: 10:00am-10:50am, 2:00pm-3:00pm  
Other times by appointment.

Course Overview:  
An Honors Program experience planned cooperatively between the Honors Scholar, their School of Business Honors faculty advisor, and their Honors Board. The School of Business faculty member serves as the primary supervisor for the Honors Scholar’s research project. The student is expected to pilot their research and write their honors proposal during this portion of the Honors experience. The research is expected to contribute to some type of novel discovery or understanding within the Honors Scholars selected field of study. Honors status will be assessed and reviewed at various points during the Honors research project by an Honors Committee and select members of the School of Business.

Course Outcomes:  
Upon successful completion of BA 674, students will be able to:  
1. Demonstrate an ability to apply business concepts and principles learned from Westminster courses in an independent and productive manner  
2. Utilize observational, investigational, and critical-thinking skills, including the ability to evaluate, interpret, and assess information and data with minimal guidance from the Honors faculty advisor  
3. Acquire and utilize knowledge and skills that enhance future success within the corresponding field  
4. Demonstrate initiative, responsibility, and accountability  
5. Demonstrate a capacity for decision-making  
6. Communicate the experience by creating a detailed research poster
Academic Honesty:

You are expected to know the elements and ramifications of academic dishonesty as stated in the 2018-2019 Westminster College Student Handbook. Any academically dishonest act will result in failure of the assignment and failure of the class for the semester. Cheating, or the perception thereof, will result in your dismissal from class, failure of the course, or both. Cheating is considered to be plagiarism, copying others work, or simply taking credit for another’s work and claiming it as your own. Cheating serves no one well and will be dealt with accordingly.

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 Faith Craig, Director of Disability Resources, located in 414 Thompson-Clark Hall. Phone: 724-946-7192 E-mail: craigfa@westminster.edu

Course Assignments:

Conference Application: The student is expected to develop an abstract based on their research for submission to an applicable business-oriented conference. Guidelines for the abstract will be discussed once an appropriate conference is selected.

Honors Committee Meeting: Over the course of the semester, the student is expected to arrange at least one formal status-update meeting with the Honors committee. This meeting should also include additional members of the School of Business in order to help assess the overall progression of the project. Additional meetings with the committee are recommended but are not required. Organization of the time and place of these meetings are the responsibility of the student.

Honors Thesis Draft: Having completed the introduction of the thesis during the prior semester, the student is expected to make significant progress and/or complete the final draft of the associated research project.

Work Log: The student is expected to maintain a weekly log of hours spent working on their proposal. This log should computer generated and must be submitted for formal evaluation at the end of the semester.

Status Meetings with Honors Advisor: The student will meet with their Honors Advisor on a weekly or bi-weekly schedule as deemed appropriate. These meetings will be used to update the advisor on research and writing progress in order to trouble shoot and improve student work. The student is expected to come prepared with an organized PowerPoint if presenting data or other relevant documentation and materials as appropriate to the topic of the meeting.
Course Grade: A final grade will be determined by the Honors Advisor and Honors Board members. Each of these course assignments will contribute to a percentage of the student’s grade. General grading criteria are noted for each assignment.

Conference Abstract 20%  
(Quality of content, writing and research)

Honors Thesis Drafts 35%  
(Quality of content, writing and research)

Honors Committee Meeting(s) 20%  
(Preparation, quality of presentation style  
And content; will include Committee feedback)

Work Log 10%  
(Completion of requisite hours)

Status Meetings 15%  
(Preparation and effort)