

DRAFT COURSE SYLLABUS

UAP 5424:

Capstone Development Summer 2008

Course Information

Time: Wednesdays, 4:15-6:45 PM

May 21, May 28, June 4 and June 11

Note June 11 class will go until 9 PM

Room: TBA

Virginia Tech, Urban Affairs and Planning

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Elizabeth Morton

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Course Overview

This one credit course is recommended for students planning to graduate in Fall 08 or Spring 09.

Among the topics covered will be:

- How to come up with a researchable question
- The logistics of the UAP Capstone process
- Issues of writing style and formatting
- Finding and using resources for research (including our library and its online resources)
- Review of previous student projects
- Working with human subjects and the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process

Course Format and Requirements

Each session will be taught seminar-style. Students will prepare a short assignment (2-3 pp.) for weeks 1-3 and must demonstrate through class discussion that they have completed the readings. The final assignment will be a research and writing plan for the capstone project (5-7 pp).

We will have a special session by the WAAC librarian on how to use our (often underutilized) library and online resources. We will conclude the class on June 11 with a roundtable reception with recent graduates on their capstone experiences.

Readings

The required text will be *The Craft of Research*, Third Edition (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams. This is a classic, widely available book, but please try to get the Third Edition (2008). Even though it says it is going to be released May 15, it is available on Amazon.com now.

Other readings will be available on Blackboard.