

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites: Student must be enrolled in his or her last Honors College academic year before graduation.

This course is intended to guide sophomore Honors College students from various disciplines through the stages of researching and writing a major research project or developing a project in the humanities, social sciences, and other areas. Areas of research will vary, but can include psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, history, philosophy, education, art history, or other areas approved by the professor. Topics include planning, research and documentation, prose style and editing, document design, ethics, abstracts, and oral presentations. Because the course will enroll from different disciplines, students will also become acquainted with research topics, ways of framing arguments, and making points outside their fields of study, which will help them develop a more interdisciplinary perspective. Class will include research training, guest lectures, as well as independent study and research.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. Research on the value of intensive undergraduate research experiences abounds, and requiring enrollment in this research capstone will provide RVCC Honors College students with: a strong student-faculty collaboration and scholarship; an original research to the discipline; an understanding of intensive research in preparation for classes in the major or for more intensive graduate school research; and a high profile project that will aid in transfer applications.
Class will consist of five major components: intensive library instruction, research and guidance with faculty member, group discussions on topics and progress, the final written (or artistic) project, and a formal presentation.
- B. Please describe the transferability of this course: This course may not transfer; if it does, it will be an elective dependent on the transfer institution.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective (This applies automatically to all credit courses in the College.)
B. This course does not meet a General Education requirement.
C. This course meets a program requirement for The Honors College (any AA/AS degree).
D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

Class will consist of five major components:

1. Intensive IL instruction (face-to-face; first 4 weeks)
 - a. Advanced topic exploration
 - b. Database, interlibrary loan, one-on-one work with librarian
 - c. Writing in the disciplines—guest faculty speakers
 - d. Refresher on effective presentations: abstracts and multimedia (later in semester)
2. Research and guidance with faculty member (ongoing)
3. Group discussions on topics and progress (every other week after first 4 weeks)
4. The final written (or artistic) project
5. A formal presentation.

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Logically and persuasively state and support orally and in writing their findings from the research or creative project. (GE-1, IL, *)
2. Evaluate and think critically about information. (GE-IL, *)
3. Write and revise drafts to achieve clear and direct prose style, and employ standard editing practices for self- and peer-reviews. (GE-1)
4. Use discipline-specific information sources and databases to better understand the research topic and find existing research in the field. (GE-IL)
5. Complete a research or arts product that incorporates newly acquired and prior information and is delivered in a medium appropriate to the discipline and intended audience. (GE-IL, 1)
6. Cites sources, compiles a bibliography, and makes consistent and correct use of a citation style appropriate to the discipline (GE-IL)

*Embedded Critical Thinking

B. Assessment Instruments

1. research papers
2. final presentation

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Final Research Project
- B. Presentation

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. Independent Study

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. suggested textbook
- B. primary sources
- C. student writing
- D. web sources
- E. other computer-based sources: library databases

Possible suggestions:

A Guide to Writing in the Sciences (Gilpin, Andrea & Pachet-Golubev, Patricia)
Internet Research Skills, 3rd Edition (Ó Dochartaigh, Niall)

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

n/a

X. Honors Options [if relevant]

n/a