

North Dakota State University
Department of Modern Languages

French 489: Senior Thesis
Spring 2012

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Catalog Copy

Integrative capstone experience for seniors majoring in French; faculty guided research within the context of a 400-level literature or culture course leading to a substantive written project in French and its oral presentation to faculty and departmental majors. 1 credit. Prereq: Senior standing; study abroad

Course Description / Objectives

As an integrative experience in the last year of the French major, the capstone gives senior students the opportunity to bring together the skills acquired over their course of studies in French and their study abroad. For the capstone, students undertake a supplementary one-credit Senior Thesis Research project within the context of a course. Students enroll in both an approved 400-level literature or culture course and the one-credit French 489 Capstone Course. The capstone and its associated course will be taught in French; the capstone thesis will be directed by the course instructor. The attached Thesis Research Guidelines describe the format of the project and procedures to be followed. The final paper is expected to meet professional standards for the field.

Note: It is very important to initiate discussion with the intended instructor during the SEMESTER PRIOR TO ENROLLING IN THE CAPSTONE. A thesis proposal will be due at the end of the second week of classes for French 489.

Text(s) To be determined in thesis proposal.

Grading

The capstone project is offered only on a graded basis. 75% of the final grade will be derived from the written work, 25% from the public presentation of the thesis. Grading criteria: 1) quality of scholarship, 2) development and organization, and 3) the overall quality of the writing in French. The expectation is that the thesis will be professional and literate and that it will conform to MLA or Chicago guidelines. The oral component will be evaluated separately on the basis of its organization, presentation, and the quality of the spoken French.

Academic Honesty

The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the Office of Registration and Records. Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty. The NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct specifically states: "Students are responsible for submitting their own work. Students who cooperate on oral or written examinations or work without authorization share the

responsibility for violation of academic principles and the students are subject to disciplinary action even when one of the students is not enrolled in the course where the violation occurred.” While I encourage you to study in groups, and you may work with tutors on questions you may have for the class, you should not expect them to help you with specific questions on assignments. All work turned in for this class should be your own.

Dead Week Policy

“A dead week would allow for only one exam or quiz to be given, per course, during the last two weeks of the semester, which includes finals week.” I will adhere to this policy but would like to note that this does NOT refer to the last two weeks of classes but the final week of classes and the week of final exams AND nowhere does this policy state / imply that this period is only for review and no new materials may be covered – we will continue learning and covering material that WILL be included on the final exam.

Disabilities

To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Disability Services Office (701.231.8463). If you have a letter from their office indicating you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, present the letter to me as soon as possible so we can discuss any accommodations you might need in the class and so we can make the necessary arrangements as soon as possible. Students with disabilities who need accommodation for this project should speak to the department chair to make appropriate arrangements.

Senior Thesis Research Guidelines French / Spanish 489

All Thesis proposals are due by the end of the second week of classes.

Description.

The *Senior Thesis Research* project involves the independent researching and writing of a paper of approximately 4,000 words. Completion of this project and its acceptance by the supervising faculty member fulfills the department’s capstone degree requirement. Majors in French and Spanish write the capstone paper in the respective language of study. Papers must follow acceptable standards of style and format (*MLA Handbook* or the *Chicago Manual of Style*).

Procedures.

In the term prior to beginning the *Senior Thesis Research* project, students must initiate discussion with the instructor they intend to work with for the thesis in order to begin the development of a proposal. The proposal is due no later than end of the second week of classes for the 489 course.

The proposal consists of 2 -3 double-spaced pages in which you state: 1) in broad terms, the issue with which you are concerned; 2) the specific question you have formulated and intend to investigate in your research; 3) the method/structure that will organize your study. On an additional page, attach a preliminary annotated bibliography.

Schedule

Semester before enrollment in Fr/Sp 489

1. During the semester prior to enrollment in French/Spanish 489 students must consult with the instructor they intend to work with on the project. They begin to work out a research proposal based on the 400-level class in which they will be concurrently enrolled with Fr/Sp 489. This proposal will be due at the end of the second week of classes for 489.

Second week of classes for Fr/Sp 489

2. Submit thesis proposal to instructor

Fourth week

3. Submit extensive annotated list of bibliographic sources and thorough outline of project

Eighth week

4. Solid first draft of thesis due. Number of subsequent drafts to be discussed with adviser. Look ahead to the public presentation of thesis which will take place in approximately the 14th week of classes.

Fourteenth week

5. Public presentation for department faculty and majors.

Fifteenth week

6. Final clean copy of thesis due.