

North Dakota State University  
Department of Modern Languages

Spanish 489  
Senior Thesis  
Spring 2011

Instructor Carol Pearson  
315 Minard  
Email : Carol.Pearson@ndsu.edu

Office Hours:  
Phone :1-8315

Catalogue Copy

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

Course Description / Objectives

As an integrative experience in the last year of the Spanish major, the capstone gives senior students the opportunity to bring together the skills acquired over their course of studies in Spanish 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 Spanish 489 Capstone Course. The capstone and its associated course will be taught in Spanish; 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 Spanish 489.**

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 Spanish. The expectation is that the thesis will be professional and literate and that it will conform to MLA guidelines. The oral component will be evaluated separately on the basis of its organization, presentation, and the quality of the spoken Spanish.

All students in Modern Languages are expected to perform their work and conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner, consistent with NDSU Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct, to be found at <http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm>

Students with disabilities who need accommodation for this project should speak to the department chair to make appropriate arrangements.

## Senior Thesis Research Guidelines

### 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 Spanish write the capstone paper in the respective language of study. Papers must follow acceptable standards of style and format (*MLA Handbook*).

#### 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 Sp 489

1. During the semester prior to enrollment in Spanish/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 Sp 489. This proposal will be due at the end of the second week of classes for 489.

##### Second week of classes for Sp 489

2. Submit thesis proposal to instructor

##### Fourth week 31 de enero, 2011

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

##### Eighth week 28 de febrero 2011

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 14<sup>th</sup> week of classes.

##### Fourteenth week semana de 11 de abril 2011

5. Public presentation for department faculty and majors.

##### Fifteenth week semana de 18 de abril 2011

6. Final clean copy of thesis due.