

Capstone Course

Course Description:

Capstone course for students seeking careers in public folklore, historic preservation, or museum work. Application of acquired theory and practice in developing a single project in public folklore, historic preservation, or museum work.

Course Requirements:

1. Students are encouraged to develop capstone project ideas well in advance of their capstone semester. In order to develop the capstone proposal in a timely manner, students must meet with and formally ask a Folk Studies graduate faculty member to serve as their capstone advisor *prior to registering* for their (1-3) capstone hours. Serving is at the discretion of the faculty member.
2. Students must submit a capstone proposal (developed in consultation with their capstone advisor) and have it approved by the entire graduate folk studies faculty at least 2 weeks prior to registering for classes their capstone semester (typically spring semester of the second year). The proposal should be a minimum of 3 pages, plus a brief list of resources the student plans to draw on for the project (this will vary depending on the project but might include a list of community partners, archival collections, interviewees identified, etc.).
3. Once the preliminary proposal is approved, students must register for capstone credits with their advisor.
4. Prior to the end of their capstone semester, students must give a presentation to the Folk Studies faculty, which will also be open to other students and interested parties. The date of presentation should be scheduled in consultation with the advisor early in the semester, and must take place before the thesis deadline for that semester.
5. At the capstone presentation, students should present themselves professionally as they would at a conference or job interview. Presentations should be 15 minutes in length, and include a formal oral description of the process and product of the capstone as well as a visual component such as a PowerPoint. Students should be prepared to answer questions from the faculty and other audience members following their presentation.
6. Advisors will assess the process, product, and presentation of the capstone in order to determine a grade.