**Course Objectives:**

In this course, you will learn how to do the following things:

* Critically evaluate concepts of community and the common good, and understand the relationship between these concepts
* Analyze your work and your classmates’ work from an interdisciplinary perspective
* Connect your research to broader and/or contemporary questions and problems.
* Present your work to a group
* Understand how leadership skills relate to your capstone project.
* Evaluate how your research relates to issues in your community

**Requirements:**

Your grade in this course will be based on the following assignments:

HW 1: 7%

HW 2: 6%

HW 3: 5%

HW 4: 6%

HW 5: 5%

HW 6: 6%

HW 7: 10%

HW 8: 5%

HW 9: 5%

HW 10: 5%

HW 11: 5%

FINAL CAPSTONE: 30%

PARTICIPATION: 5%

Though we will review upcoming assignments each session, it is essential that you read this syllabus before each class. Think about it as your guide to the course—the syllabus tells you what we are doing this week, and it lets you know what is coming next. If you need another copy, it is available on the course Blackboard page.

**Weekly Assignments:**

To guide you through the writing process, short assignments are every week. Some of these are parts of your thesis (like the literature review), while others are tools to help you write and revise.

**Attendance Policy:**

Please come to class on time, with your cell phone turned off. More than two absences will seriously affect your grade in the course. If you are more than fifteen minutes late, it will also count as an absence. Three late arrivals (that is, arriving more than 5 minutes after the start of class) will constitute an absence.

**Cellphone Policy:**

Use of a cellphone or other electronic device without the professor’s explicit permission will cause you to **fail** this course.

**Office Hours:**

I have listed my office hours on the website—please come visit if you have any questions about course requirements, the things we talk about in class, the readings and assignments, study strategies, John Jay, special concerns, letters of recommendation, graduate school, or anything else. I am here to help you succeed.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research or writings as your own.  Here are some examples of plagiarism:

* Copying another person’s actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source
* Presenting another person’s ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source
* Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the sources
* Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework or writing assignments
* Submitting downloaded term papers or part of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the Internet without citing the source, and "cutting and pasting" from various sources without proper attribution.

**Grades:**

In accordance with CUNY policy, your grade in this course will reflect the following scale:

A Excellent (90-100%)

B Good (80-89%)

C Satisfactory (70-79%)

D Passing (60-69%)

F Failure/Unsuccessful Completion of the Course (less than 59%)

**Schedule**

Note: Our schedule is complicated! Our official class session is on Friday. Some weeks we will meet as a group during this scheduled period, but there will be other weeks when you will work independently on a project related to your capstone instead of coming to class. On a few occasions, we will meet individually in my office to discuss your project. Finally, there are some assignments that are due on days other than Friday. Since we are doing lots of different things at different times, it is very important that you review the syllabus each week to check our schedule. Planning and organization will help you succeed.