# Guidelines for Theology Department Senior Capstone Project

Normally, students will take the Senior Capstone (as a 3-credit independent study) in the Fall of their senior year. If a student is unable to take the Capstone in the Fall, they should take it in the Spring semester of their senior year instead.

Theology majors will complete the Capstone questionnaire and meet with the major advisor in the Spring of their junior year in order to develop a plan for the project, and to secure a capstone director from among the Theology faculty. This meeting ought to take place before the last day of April. Students will be assigned a director before the end of the Spring semester so that, together, they can begin to make a preliminary plan.

Students will meet with their faculty director in the first week of classes in the Fall (or Spring) semester of their senior year, at which time the two will schedule subsequent meetings for the semester.

The senior capstone is a three-credit course. Thus, students should expect to devote at least as much time to this project as they would to a regular 300-level seminar, that is, about 8 to 10 hours per week.

If a student is engaged in a project that involves service or an internship, these hours can be counted toward this total.

The capstone can take a variety of forms:

* It could involve research over the course of a semester, ending in a term paper. This research could complement or supplement another course the student has taken or is taking in another discipline.
* it could involve inquiry that results in a variety of academic writing or reflection assignments or a combination of both.
* It could involve a combination of service, internship or other experience, such as a practicum, with reading and writing that reflects on, or supplements those activities.

At the very least, by the end of the course the student shall have produced a minimum of 15 pages of well-crafted written work.

Students should meet with their director at least every other week throughout the semester.

Students are encouraged to present their work in some way. If appropriate, students could work with their Capstone director to submit a proposal to the Undergraduate Research Colloquium in the Spring semester. Or, they could offer a brief presentation (15 to 20 minutes) in the Department seminar room at the end of the semester.