



NYC iSchool

The Senior Project Jenkins / Q2, 2012-13

Course Description

This course, required of seniors, is the culmination of the 3-part Area of Focus series. In the spring of the Junior year, students completed a Critical Thinking class in their academic discipline of choice. In the fall of the Senior year, students developed a research question and wrote a literature review in response to a specific area of inquiry. In this course, students will design and execute a project grounded in this research, and will formally present their work at the end of the term. The purpose of this course is to facilitate project design, planning and execution.

Course Objectives

Through the Senior Project course, students will:

1. Reflect on their research and literature review from the Fall quarter;
2. Propose a project that is grounded in this research;
3. Plan this project, with specific outcomes throughout the quarter;
4. Execute the project;
5. Formally present the project at a final event in January

Course Requirements

Students are required to develop a project that:

1. Is grounded in research and the critical thinking discipline;
2. Requires approximately 50 hours of work to complete, including 25 hours in class and 25 hours outside of school;
3. Represents original, student-created work (eg, original research, a documentary, a book, a mobile app, an event, an experiment, etc), not secondary research (eg, a brochure or website that rehashes the lit review);
4. Has a true audience, meaning that this is a piece of work that would exist outside of a school. For example, "a brochure about Abraham Lincoln" does not meet this criteria.

Course Timeline

Week	Topic	Major Assignments
1 (class #1-3)	Discuss overview of the senior project, examples, process Brainstorm project ideas	Create / edit Google Doc to document progress throughout the course, link Research Paper
2 (#4-6)	Develop final project proposal, including exemplar (self-identified), rubric (self-created)	Project proposal due class #6 (concept, rubric, exemplar) 3 HOURS WORK / WEEK



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3 (#7-9)	In groups, students will propose medium-specific questions (ie, how to make a book) that students will answer and work on collectively.	Create “prototype” of senior project, timeline due, petition for more time 3 HOURS WORK / WEEK
4-5 (#10-15)	In class work in accordance with timeline	“Midterm” review Class #15 before winter break 3 HOURS WORK / WEEK
	WINTER BREAK / 8 HOURS OF WORK	8 HOURS WORK
6-7 (#16-21)	In class work in accordance with timeline	3 HOURS WORK / WEEK Project due Presentation due

Grading

Mastery	80%
<i>Final Project</i>	
Work Habits	20%
<i>Daily progress posts</i>	
<i>Weekly progress checks</i>	

Incomplete Grades

Students who receive below a 65% (or higher and chooses this option) will receive an incomplete in the course. The student’s work habits and contributing factors percentage grades will be locked in place at the end of the quarter, however the student may work to bring up his/her mastery grade by the end of the summer.

Late Assignments

All coursework is due on the date given at the beginning of the assignment/project. Late work will be reviewed up to five days after the due date in order to receive credit for “work habits.” While students can earn full credit for the mastery portion of their grade on any assignment, points will be deducted for late work from the student’s final “contributing factors” grade.

Student Absences

If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to come to Office Hours the day he/she returns back to school find out what was missed the day he/she was absent. The student is expected to turn in any assignments due on the day absent on the day immediately following the absence. During an absence, students are expected to continue working on their projects and to contact a classmate to keep up with course work.

Resources

- Students should get in the habit of checking iSchool email regularly, as teachers will communicate instructions, assignment feedback, etc. through email.
- Additional help is available during Office Hours or by appointment; my office hours are: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from 3:20 – 4pm.



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- If you have additional concerns please e-mail me at: cjenkins@nycischool.org