**UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON -- NEW COURSE PROPOSAL**

Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLEGE (check one):</th>
<th>Arts and Sciences</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Proposal Submitted By: Kelli Slunt
Course Title: Honors Individual Study
Department/discipline and course number*: HONR 491

*This course number must be approved by the Office of the Registrar before the proposal is submitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of credits proposed:</th>
<th>Variable 1-4</th>
<th>Prerequisites: Honors Program Committee permission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Will this be a new, repeatable “special topics” course? (Do you want students to be able to take this new course more than once if the topic changes?) NO X YES

Date of first offering of this new course: FALL SEMESTER, year Fall 2015
Proposed frequency of offering of the course: Each semester
List the faculty who will likely teach the course: Any UMW faculty member
Are ANY new resources required? NO X YES Document in attached impact statement

This new course will be (check all that apply): a course that could fulfill the capstone requirement in the honors program
Required in the major General Elective
Elective in the major General Education**

**AFTER the new course is approved, a separate proposal must be sent to the General Education Committee.

Catalog Description:
Honors Individual Study – Individual Study under the direction of a faculty member.

**COURSE HISTORY**

Was this course taught previously as a topics or experimental course? YES NO X

Course Number and Title of Previous Course Semester Offered Enrollment

CHECK HERE if the proposed course is to be equated with the earlier topics or experimental offerings. This means that students who took the earlier “topics” course will only be able to take the new course if they made a C- grade or lower in the earlier course.

NOTE: If the proposed course has not been previously offered as a topics or experimental course, explain in the attached rationale statement why the course should be adopted even though it has not been tried out.

**REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Rationale Statement (Why is this course needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. Impact Statement (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, and technology impacts created by adding this new course. Include supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. as needed.)
3. Sample Syllabus

Department Chair Approval: Kelli Slunt Date: 11/11/14

CCC Chair Approval: Date:

UCC Chair Approval: Date:

New Course Proposal Cover Sheet (July 2013)
**Rationale Statement** (Why is this course needed? What purposes will it serve?)

Each Honors Program student is required to complete a capstone Honors Course or Research/Creativity Project prior to graduation.

**Capstone Honors Course OR Honors Project (minimum 3 credits)**

There are several options for the capstone project. It is anticipated that the project may grow out of the Project Design Seminar or Research Methodology course.

The first option is the completion of a departmental project that will bring University Honors. Departments will oversee these projects, perform evaluation, and provide project advising.

The second option is completion of an interdisciplinary project that will bring University Honors. These projects will be advised by appropriate faculty and must be pre-approved by the Honors Director/Committee. This option is intended for those students whose goals do not neatly fit the requirements of their major department(s), but who intend to complete a rigorous capstone research or performance experience. To receive credit students will enroll in HONR 491 and work with a faculty member to complete this capstone experience.

Examples of possible capstone experiences include (but are not limited to) the following:
- An honors thesis.
- A major capstone course that requires a major project or performance.
- Independent research or field work that culminates in a paper, presentation, or similar product.
- A performance, show, recital, or creative presentation appropriate to the discipline, together with relevant supporting reflection or materials.
- Practicum with relevant supporting reflection or materials.
- An internship and a paper that analyzes and evaluates the experience.
- Summer research experiences or study abroad research experiences, such as Euroscholars, with relevant supporting reflection.

**Courses other than HONR 491 that will fulfill the capstone experience requirement (minimum of 3 or 4 credits):**

All courses numbered 491 and 492 (individual studies) and internships (499) that have a final project/paper that is to be evaluated by the sponsoring faculty member will meet this requirement.

- American Studies 485 – Senior Thesis
- Anthropology 481 – Senior Thesis
- Classics 485 – Guided Research in Classics
- Computer Information Systems 490 – IT Research Project
- Computer Science 391 - Special Projects in Computer Science
- Computer Science 430 - Software Engineering
- Economics 490 - “La Ceiba” Experiential Learning
- Education 440 - Supervised Teaching – only through Spring 2015
- Environmental Science 493 – Honors Research
Geology 493 – Honors Research
Greek 425 – Ancient Greek Tutoring Practicum
History 485 – Historical Research
History 486 – Historical Research Abroad
Interdisciplinary 400 – Urban Research Seminar
Interdisciplinary 407 – Field Project in STEM Education
Music Theory 490 – Music History-Theory Seminar
Philosophy 485 – Research in Philosophy
Religion 401 – Guided Research
Studio Arts 474 – Professional Practices in Studio Art
Theatre 482 – Senior Project
Women and Gender Studies 485 – Senior Project

A qualifying and approved summer research program, such as Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) or UMW Summer Science Institute, or a research-focused study abroad experience, such as Euroscholars, may also be used to satisfy the requirement. In order to receive credit for this experience, students must complete the individual experience form (see next page).
Honors Program Course Proposal Form  
Capstone Course Proposal – Individual Student Experience

Each Honors Program student is required to complete a capstone Honors Course or Research/Creativity Project prior to graduation. A list of approved courses is available in the catalog or Honors Program Handbook. Please complete the following form to gain approval for an individualized experience that fulfills the requirements of the capstone course or Research/Creativity Project.

Student’s Name: ________________________________

College, Department, discipline: _____________________

If appropriate, course number and title: ______________________

If no official course involved fulfillment of the objectives, indicate a title for the experience:

Student’s signature: __________________ Date: ____________

Department Chair’s Name: __________________________

Department Chair’s signature: __________________ Date: ____________

Semester course/experience occurred or will occur: _______________

List of faculty supervisor or instructor of the course: __________________

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

Rationale statement – Describe the research project or capstone course and explain how it is designed to provide focus and culmination to your educational experience.
Impact Statement (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, and technology impacts created by adding this new course. Include supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. as needed.)

The Honors Program is not anticipating any altered impacts on the Library, space, budget, and technology. The impact would be the same as other discipline 491 or 492 courses.

Sample Syllabus

Honors Independent Study: HONR 491

Instructor: any member of the teaching faculty

Course Description:

Each Honors Program student is required to complete a capstone Honors Course or Research/Creativity Project prior to graduation. Honors independent study provides honors scholars with opportunities to undertake an interdisciplinary individual study under the direction of the appropriate faculty member. Students interested in pursuing HONR 491 should present a brief proposal and syllabus to the appropriate faculty member and receive approval in advance by the Honors Program Committee.

These projects will be advised by appropriate faculty and must be pre-approved by the Honors Director/Committee. This option is intended for those students whose goals do not neatly fit the requirements of their major department(s), but who intend to complete a rigorous capstone research or performance experience. To receive credit students will enroll in HONR 491 and work with a faculty member to complete this capstone experience.

This capstone experience should focus on some feature of the student's area of concentration and should require the disciplined use of skills, methodology, and knowledge taught throughout the undergraduate curriculum. Students fulfilling the requirement through HONR 491 should concentrate on relating the experience to the objective of the honors program:

- Self-directed learning
- Written and oral communication skills
- Ethical maturity and good citizenship
- Context-driven research skills
- Inter-disciplinary synthesis
- Active participation in the UMW community
- Active Meta-analysis of self and others

Examples of possible capstone experiences include (but are not limited to) the following:

- An honors thesis.
- A major capstone course that requires a major project or performance.
- Independent research or field work that culminates in a paper, presentation, or similar product.
• A performance, show, recital, or creative presentation appropriate to the discipline, together with relevant supporting reflection or materials.
• Practicum with relevant supporting reflection or materials.
• An internship and a paper that analyzes and evaluates the experience.
• Summer research experiences or study abroad research experiences, such as Euroscholars, with relevant supporting reflection.

Students pursuing HONR 491 should develop a learning agreement/syllabus that addresses the following:

• Course expectations and assignments

The syllabus should describe course goals, course outcomes, and requirements.

Include in your description of the expectations of the course, a list of all course requirements along with the percentages or points they are worth.

• Independent Study Time Schedule

Indicate how many hours per week is equivalent to the number of course credits. The list should include details about project/assignment due dates and approximate amount of time that the student should spend on the independent study. A general rule of thumb is that each credit represents approximately 2 to 3 hours of work per week as established by prior agreement between the instructor and student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>credits</th>
<th>hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8 - 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is the responsibility of the student to arrange to meet with the instructor at least once a week to discuss progress on the capstone project.

• Grading
Grades will be established by the instructor based on pre-determined criteria:
The overall grade scheme will reflect the following from the Dictionary of Academic Regulations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>commendable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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</tr>
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<td>C+</td>
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</tr>
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<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>marginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Honor System
  
  All graded work must be your own and pledged according to the Honor Code: I hereby declare upon my word of honor that I have neither given nor received any unauthorized help on this work.

  Signature

  In addition, it is expected that the work(s) of others are properly referenced.