



HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT SENIOR PROJECT GUIDELINES

Students of senior standing are required to complete a Senior Project as a condition for graduation. The Senior Project is a research, performance, or creative project, the topic to be chosen and refined with the Senior Projects Panel and the faculty advisor. The Senior Project will be developed during scheduled weekly meetings with a faculty advisor within the department.

The Senior Project is a culmination of the Sierra Nevada College experience in the area of Humanities and Social Sciences. As such, Senior Projects are one of the most important stages of the student's career and, therefore, without a passing grade, no student in Humanities and Social Sciences will receive a degree in this area.

General Standards for Senior Projects

- Take the form of either a poster or PowerPoint format
- Be summarized in a clear thesis statement/abstract approved by senior project advisors
- Include a clear explanation of the research reviewed or employed, the structure of the performance or the systematic analysis of the creative work
- Include a focused, carefully summarized discussion of previous and/or novel research results to support the thesis
- Include a professional abstract
- Include a bibliography or reference list
- Include a written, presentation, and verbal component

The Senior Projects will be approved, evaluated, and graded by a Senior Projects Panel composed of all Senior Project advisors.

Written Component

The student will write a formal paper in APA or MLA format unless engaged in a performance or creative project. A minimum of six, outside, cited references should be included within the text as well as on a bibliographic or reference list. At least two of these must be non-electronic sources. The final paper should be between 20 and 30 pages, typed, double-spaced, using a 12 point font. Students must submit an electronic copy of their paper to the faculty advisor for permanent archiving in the SNC Library.

The paper should:

- Be grammatically and organizationally sound
- Demonstrate a grasp of the intellectual context of the topic
- Demonstrate an ability to critically analyze themes within the topic
- Situate the topic of research within the field of humanities as a whole
- Demonstrate an awareness of the ethical and/or political ramifications of the topic (where applicable)
- State explicitly how current research may be further developed *or* lead to future career choice/direction

Presentation Component

The student will summarize the results of the research, performance, or creative project employing PowerPoint or poster format. Specific majors will provide specific guidelines in this area. All students must be prepared to provide effective rationale for the significance of their projects as well as a thorough understanding of the ramifications of their discoveries. Students will prepare a three-minute presentation for anyone interested in their project and should be expected to be audio-recorded at their Senior Project Presentation. Students must be prepared to address questions regarding their projects during the presentation period. Professionalism of presentation is required.

The poster or PowerPoint presentation should:

- Clearly and logically set forth the full dimensions of the product
- Demonstrate a solid grasp of the intellectual context of the project and the ramifications of the research
- Demonstrate analytical skills commensurate with the complexities and challenges of the project
- Draw necessary connections between the project and the Humanities and Social Sciences as a whole
- Demonstrate familiarity with the specifics of the research, performance or creative project
- Be available in handout format for reviewers and interested parties
- Include the reviewed and approved abstract
- Include a succinct (3 min) verbal summary highlighting the purpose and two main points of the project

Specific Guidelines by Major

Psychology

Research papers and projects should follow guidelines set forth in the current A.P.A. Publication Manual for the style of review and analysis provided. For example, all research studies must include an abstract (250 word maximum), introduction with a clearly stated thesis, detailed method, results section with one or more of the following: (1) statistical analyses of quantitative or qualitative data (accompanied by written and graphic presentation of the data), (2) program implementation, and/or (3) creative projects. The product should then include an integrative, insightful, and application-based discussion culminating with an A.P.A. style reference section. All independent student research must be accompanied by approval to conduct research on human participants from the Institutional Review Board. For meta-analytic reviews, a combination of these approaches is acceptable.

English

The project should demonstrate a grasp of either the dimensions of creative writing or literary criticism. Creative writing projects include manuscripts of original work with critical prefacing commentary. Literature presentations should demonstrate clear foundational knowledge of literary periods and transitions, critical analysis of focus subject and an original perspective on the topic.

Interdisciplinary Studies

The Interdisciplinary Studies students are prepared to actively apply their varied discipline/s to a pre-approved project, which is evaluated on the following:

- approach (rigor and creativity),
- content and application (research, audience awareness, depth, and development)
- interdisciplinary and integrative learning (disciplinary connections and reflection)
- construction and presentation (oral, written, and visual communication)

Some examples of potential projects include: research paper, video production, business plan, curriculum development, community event/ report etc. Students are encouraged to include a hands-on component to their project. Students present their projects in the Humanities Department poster symposium.

Posters must include an abstract, review of literature, methodology/program description, discussion, and references.

Supplement each individualized syllabus cell accounting for specifics of your project, your specific components and due dates, timing, texts, journals, readings, writing needs, printing needs, review, and any other requirements of your project.

Date	Meeting Plan: Mondays 4:00pm-5:15pm	Assignments Due
Week 1		Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (College Closed)
Week 2		Student completes senior project syllabus with advising
Week 3		Finalize project topic
Week 4		Thesis statement/abstract submission due date
Week 5		President's Day (College Closed)
Week 6		
Week 7		
Week 8		Rough draft due date
Week 9		
Week 10		Bibliography or reference page due to advisor
Week 11		
Week 12		
Week 13		Paper due to advisor
Week 14		Revision week
Week 15		Senior project presentations
Week 16		

Note: The aim of this syllabus, as constructed by the student and faculty advisor, exists to facilitate successful completion of the senior project. Adjustments may be required. Additionally, Interdisciplinary Studies Senior Portfolio courses follow a different and customized schedule. For more information, see INTD program chair.