

Capstone

What is a capstone?

In their senior year Political Science (POL), International Affairs (INTA) Law and Society and Cyber Strategy and Policy majors must complete a capstone senior project that requires a research project, paper and presentation. Students need not wait until their last semester to register for a capstone, but should be nearing the end of their degree program, and should have completed POL 3000 Approaches and Methods in Political Science, in preparation for the capstone research project.

How to complete the requirement?

There are several ways to fulfill the capstone requirement. Note that students with a major GPA of 3.67 at graduation will qualify for high school honors if they either complete a senior thesis (POL 5000 and 5001) or complete a 7000-level POL seminar (with a B or higher).

POL majors have three capstone options:

1. They can complete one of the following 5100-level classes as their Senior Project (note that 5100 and 6000 courses are two different codes for the same offering): POL 5111, 5115, 5123, 5131, 5132, 5135, 5136, 5161, 5164, 5165, 5168, 5176, 5177, 5180, 5181, 5183, 5184, 5185, 5186, 5189, 5193, 5197, 5035C. Please note courses whose first two digits begin with 51 are exactly the same as those whose first two digits begin with 60. The School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) offers 2-3 POL 5100-level classes each semester taught by our faculty. Each 5100-level POL class counts only once toward the Area of Emphasis coursework; the class can also satisfy a requirement in the respective sub-field (e.g., American Politics, Comparative Politics, or International Relations) and the capstone requirement at the same time. Undergraduate students can complete multiple 5100-level classes; only one will serve as a capstone.

Note that the SPIA schedules a total of 6-8 5000-level POL capstone offerings during a given academic year (2-3 in the Fall and 3-4 in the Spring) based on instructor and resource availability. These courses are usually offered every other year depending on faculty schedules, academic calendars and other factors. For detailed info about current and future offerings, visit the UC course catalog at:

<http://www.classes.catalystatuc.org/search/>

Effective Fall 2016 Undergraduate Students cannot sign up for 6000-level classes. 6000-level classes are open for graduate students only.

2. POL 7000-level graduate seminar for undergraduate credit (one semester) with permission of instructor OR

3. POL 5000 and 5001 Senior Thesis (two semesters)

INTA majors have even more capstone options:

1. They can complete one of the following 5100-level classes as their Senior Project: POL 5131, 5132, 5135, 5136, 5161, 5164, 5165, 5168, 5176, 5177, 5180, 5181, 5183, 5184, 5185, 5186, 5189, 5193, 5197,

5035C. Note that courses whose first two digits begin with 51 are exactly the same as those whose first two digits begin with 60. The School of Public and International Affairs offers 2-3 POL several 5100-level classes each semester taught by our faculty. Students are able to choose a research topic within the course's theme. Any 5100-level POL class counts only once toward the INTA Capstone & Groupings Requirement; however, the class can also fulfill a Groupings requirement (e.g. International Politics and Political Theory, Comparative Studies) while satisfying the capstone requirement. Students can complete multiple 5100-level classes only one will serve as a capstone.

Note that SPIA schedules a total of 6-8 5000-level POL capstone offerings during a given academic year (2-3 in the Fall and 3-4 in the Spring) based on instructor and resource availability. These courses are usually offered every other year depending on faculty schedules, academic calendars and other factors. For detailed info about current and future offerings, visit the UC course catalog at:

<http://www.classes.catalystatuc.org/search/>

Effective Fall 2016 Undergraduate Students cannot sign up for 6000-level classes. 6000-level classes are open for graduate students only.

2. POL 7000-level graduate seminar with international focus for undergraduate credit (one semester) with permission of instructor OR

3. POL 5000-5001 Senior Thesis (two semesters) OR

4. INTA majors may complete the capstone requirement for majors in geography or Asian studies (GEOG: 5000-5007; AIST: 5091). No history or economics capstone is allowed.

Senior thesis

One way that students can complete the POL or INTA major capstone requirement is by doing a two-semester senior thesis POL 5000-5001. Students who have a major GPA of 3.67 or higher (and will thus graduate with high school honors by doing a senior thesis) and/or students who want to go on to graduate school are especially encouraged to do a senior thesis. Students should consider topics that build on upper level classes they have taken and approach faculty members who are doing related research and teaching to discuss and design their research proposals. Each student writing a thesis will need a faculty supervisor and a faculty reader. INTA majors can invite one of these faculty members from a core INTA field other than Political Science. A senior thesis student and the faculty supervisor and reader should clearly delineate in writing a proposal including expectations about the scope and schedule for the project. Faculty supervisors can decide whether they will grade each semester separately or use an IP (in progress) grade that will be changed to the final grade at the end of the second semester. Students should plan to have a draft of the entire thesis submitted to their advisor by week eight of the semester when they take POL 5001 or March 1 for those students who plan to graduate in the spring. Juniors contemplating a senior thesis should plan ahead in order to have a proposal developed and faculty ready to serve as supervisor and reader in time apply for the Taft Undergraduate Senior Research Fellowship (details below) in the spring of their junior year. Students must have a supervisor, a reader and a proposal approved by both prior to signing up for POL 5000.