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# Managing Individualized Capstone Experiences in a Large Department

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# APSC Undergraduates

- 500 majors
- 85 – 85 – 85 – 85



# APSC Capstone Experience

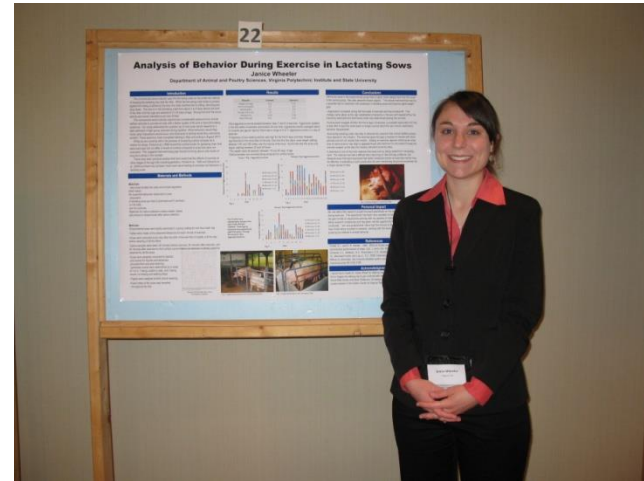
- Graduation requirement
- Implemented for Class of 2011
- Two credits, Senior or Graduate course
- Project-based, faculty-approved
  - Internships
  - Undergraduate Research
  - Study Abroad
  - Independent Studies
  - Formal Courses



# APSC Capstone Experience

## ➤ Learning Objectives

- teamwork
- problem-solving
- critical thinking
- analysis and synthesis of information
- improved communication skills
- preparation for post-graduation success
- a sense of the bigger picture



# “Umbrella” Course (APSC 4954)

- Developed for students completing an individualized capstone experience
  - On-site supervisor
  - Faculty supervisor
  - Mostly internships
  - Some independent studies/undergrad research
  - Offered Fall and Spring
  - Culminates in a poster symposium



# Capstone Experiences by Term

| Number of Capstone Proposals Submitted and Number of Students Enrolled in APSC 4954 |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Term  | Proposals | APSC 4954 |
| Fall 2010   | 61        | 11        |
| Spr 2011  | 32        | 14        |
| Fall 2011   | 82        | 33        |
| Spr 2012  | 51        | 11        |
| Fall 2012   | 94        | 44        |
| Spr 2013  | 55        | 9         |
| Fall 2013   | 64        | 27        |





- Virginia Tech's implementation of Sakai, an open-source learning and collaboration management system
  - Replaced Blackboard
  - Includes project sites, ePortfolio sites and course sites
- Course site is used to manage individualized capstone experiences



My Workspace ▾ Recorded Lectures ▾ APSC 3954 Sum13 ▾ ALS 1004 Sum II 2013 ▾ Enter Student View Logout

APSC 1454 Online SumII 13 ▾ APSC 1454 Summer Track 13 ▾ APSC 1464 Summer Track 13 ▾

APSC 4954 Capstone F13 ▾ APSC 1464 Intro Lab F13 ▾ APSC 1454 Intro F13 ▾ Youth Swine Education Day ▾ APSC 1454 S13 Intro ▾

APSC 1464 S13 Intro Lab ▾ More Sites ▾

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## APSC 4954 Capstone F13

Options

Welcome, Everyone!  
 This Scholar site serves as the central location for all information for everyone enrolled in APSC 4954 Fall Semester 2013 as well as for anyone not enrolled in APSC 4954 but participating in the APSC Capstone Symposium. We don't meet face-to-face so everything about assignments, due dates, etc. are on this site. If you have any questions or want to visit, however, please don't hesitate to get in touch individually.

This Scholar site will have all the due dates for all the course requirements on the calendar and I will upload assignments, forms and other handouts that are needed or might be useful.

Please click on "Modules" on the lefthand menu for step-by-step instructions on what is due when, etc. The first Module is for those enrolled in the course and the second one is for those participating only in the Symposium.

For those enrolled in APSC 4954 everything needed to complete the assignments for the course can be found in the Assignment section of this course site (click on "Assignments" in the left hand menu).

## Recent Announcements

Options

**Announcements** (viewing announcements from the last 10 days)

[Edited Assignment: Open Date for 'Info Form'](#)

(Cynthia Wood - Jun 21, 2013 4:24 pm)

[Edited Assignment: Open Date for 'Current Status'](#)

(Cynthia Wood - Jun 19, 2013 2:51 pm)

[Edited Assignment: Open Date for 'Project Material\(s\)'](#)

(Cynthia Wood - Jun 19, 2013 2:02 pm)

## Calendar







Options

June, 2013

< Today >

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|



- Assignments 
- Drop Box 
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## APSC 4954 Assignments

*Instructions:* The following step-by-step instructions will guide you through the requirements for successfully completing APSC 4954. This module is designed for students taking APSC 4954.

## INTRODUCTION

The APSC Capstone Experience is primarily a self-directed endeavor with a very well defined set of objectives to achieve. From the initial proposal to the final report for this course, YOUR experience should be directed to accomplishing the objectives listed below in its own unique way. The assignments listed below are designed to help you stay on track to having a positive outcome both in terms of the capstone experience you have undertaken and the course (APSC 4954) by which credit is awarded for that experience. If you follow the instructions it should be a straightforward process but if you have any questions or concerns at all please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. All my contact information is found in the syllabus and on the "home" section of this course site.

Best wishes for a successful experience! - Dr .Wood

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the capstone experience, students will have integrated new skills and knowledge with skills and knowledge previously attained by accomplishing at least five of the following seven learning objectives:

1. analyze, interpret, and synthesize information from a variety of sources;
2. solve "real-world" problems in "real-world" situations;
3. improve verbal, visual, and written communication skills;
4. practice critical thinking skills;
5. be a contributing member to a team effort;
6. gain an understanding of the "bigger picture"; and
7. enhance self-confidence and preparation for a career and/or post-baccalaureate education

## ASSIGNMENTS

Details about all of the following assignments are found in the **Assignments** section of the course site. Click on *Assignments* on the left hand menu to access them. All completed assignments will be uploaded into Scholar via their respective assignments in the Assignment section (except the Supervisor Report, which is sent directly to me). **DO NOT use the drop box as I cannot assign a grade directly from there.** The assignments are pretty much in chronological order by due date but you may want to start some sooner than others.

**Assignment 1 (15 pt): Individual Experience Information Form (Due June 5)** This form provides information about your start and

1. enhance self-confidence and preparation for a career and/or post-baccalaureate education

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**Assignment 1 (15 pt): Individual Experience Information Form (Due June 5).** This form provides information about your start and end dates, supervisor contact information and a brief description of your capstone experience and project. This form will help me keep track of how things should be going and how to get in touch with your supervisor. Limit to one page. See "Assignments" on Scholar for details.

**Assignment 2 (25 pt): Current Status (due one week after starting your capstone).** This is a one-page summary of how your capstone is going. See the Assignment on Scholar for details. Include in your summary the date you expect to be finished with your project and your experience.


**Assignment 3 (10+50 pt): Project Material(s) (initial proposal due two weeks after starting the capstone; final submission due within two weeks of completing your project).** This will likely be different for each person and depends fully on what your project is. If you need help with this please let me know as soon as possible. Details are under "Assignments".


**Assignment 4 (50 pt): Supervisor Report (due as soon as possible once your capstone experience is completed):** This evaluation by your supervisor does not impact your grade very much one way or the other but it is vital in terms of feedback for you and for the capstone program. It needs to be filled out by your supervisor at the conclusion of your capstone experience and sent to me.


**Assignment 5 (100 pt): Capstone Poster (Due September 6):** Everyone will prepare a poster presentation using Powerpoint (see details on Scholar under *Assignments*). If you want to include additional items, let me know what you have in mind. Tables are available if needed.


**Assignment 6 (50 pt): Capstone Symposium (September 27, 2:30-4:00 PM):** You are required to participate in the Capstone Symposium, which will be held on the first floor of Litton Reaves Hall. These poster presentations have proven very successful and we are looking forward to another great symposium. Details are posted under *Assignments*.


**Assignment 7 (100 pt): Final Report (Due October 11).** This report (5-6 pages double spaced) is **not** the same one you might prepare as part of your project. This report should include a summary of your activities, accomplishments and challenges throughout your experience. It should also include details about how your experience met (**or failed to meet**) the learning objectives outlined in the capstone guidelines. Also include feedback on the symposium and suggestions for future students who might want to follow your footsteps. Details are under *Assignments*.

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## APSC 4954 Capstone F13: Assignments








Add Assignment List Grade Report Student View Reorder Permissions Options

### Assignment List

The list of assignments below appears exactly as a student will see it. By clicking 'Submit as Student', you can work through the assignment exactly as a student will, including submitting the assignment.

Viewing 1 - 7 of 7 items

|< < Show 200 items... > >|

| Assignment title  | Status      | Open                  | Due                   | Scale   |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|
|  Info Form           | Not Started | May 15, 2013 8:00 am  | Jun 5, 2013 11:55 pm  | 0-15.0  |
|  Current Status      | Not Started | May 24, 2013 5:00 pm  | Jun 14, 2013 11:55 pm | 0-25.0  |
|  Project Material(s) | Not Started | May 24, 2013 12:00 am | Aug 30, 2013 11:55 pm | 0-60.0  |
|  Supervisor Report | Not Started | Jun 14, 2013 12:00 pm | Aug 15, 2013 5:00 pm  | 0-50.0  |
|  Poster            | Not Started | Jun 21, 2013 12:00 am | Sep 6, 2013 5:00 pm   | 0-100.0 |
|  Symposium         | Not Started | Jun 21, 2013 12:00 am | Sep 27, 2013 2:00 pm  | 0-50.0  |
|  Final Report      | Not Started | Jun 21, 2013 12:00 am | Oct 11, 2013 5:00 pm  | 0-100.0 |

# Capstone Symposium



*“I was surprised by how much I enjoyed the capstone symposium. I was impressed by my classmate’s projects and the time and determination many of them dedicated. During the symposium, the time passed quickly and I was excited to share my project with interested underclassmen.”*

# Student Feedback

- Course evaluations have improved
  - 3.1 / 4.0 in Fall 2010, 3.5 / 4.0 in Fall 2012
- Learning objectives have been met
  - 98% met 5 of 7, 43% met all 7

*“I gained confidence in myself in being able to manage a real event, and being treated like an adult in charge for the first time. I feel more professional with myself and my ability to be a leader. Overall my capstone experience gave back to me more than I expected.”*





# Thank you!

