Description

In this seminar, Animal Studies M.A. students pursue intensive self-directed projects with the support of their instructor, peers, and project advisor. This project can be a research paper, policy proposal, or artistic project that explores central themes in Animal Studies in an original and rigorous way. Students secure a project advisor either prior to or during this seminar. They then select a project topic in consultation with their advisor and instructor, and they develop a polished draft of this project by the end of the semester. This seminar provides students with support in defining the projects and tools for pursuing them appropriately. This includes asking insightful research questions, defining research topics, scoping a research or artistic literature, and writing and communicating the results or final project clearly and persuasively. This is an individualized class, and students will have ample opportunity to develop and present works in progress.

General Information

- Time: M 5–7:30 EST
- Place: SILV 515
- Email: jeffsebo@nyu.edu
- Office: Online
- Office hours: W 12:00–2:00pm EST

Readings

The required book is Kate Turabian & Wayne Booth, *A manual for writers*, 9th edition (hereafter MW). This book is available at many online retailers. All other readings will be made available on NYU Brightspace or online.
Grading

Your grades will be determined as follows:

- **Project Draft (25%)**: You will complete a draft of your M.A. project and submit it to capstoneseminar22@gmail.com by the end of the day on 5/16. The draft should be at least 5,000 words (or the equivalent), and should be completed in a manner appropriate for the field and medium of choice.

- **Project Presentation (25%)**: You will select a date to give a 30 minute class presentation. You will share a 2,500 word draft or the equivalent via Messages on NYU Brightspace no later than 5 days in advance. In class, you will distribute a 1-2 page handout. You will then spend 10 minutes discussing the current state of your draft and 20 minutes taking questions and comments from the group.

- **Weekly Assignments (20%)**: Starting 1/31 and ending 5/2, you will complete a short assignment related to the topic of discussion each week. You will email your assignment to capstoneseminar22@gmail.com. These assignments are due each Sunday night and will be graded Pass/Fail.

- **Weekly Research (15%)**: Starting 2/7 and ending 4/4, you will write a 250 word summary of one scholarly article related to your topic each week. You will add these summaries to a Google doc that you share with capstoneseminar22@gmail.com. These summaries will be graded Pass/Fail.

- **Attendance and Participation (15%)**: I expect regular attendance and thoughtful participation from all students throughout the semester, and especially during class presentations.

Policies

- **Late Papers/Extensions/Incompletes**: Late papers will lose 1/3 letter grade for each day late. Late WA and WR assignments will be accepted for half credit up until the start of class. Extensions and incompletes will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. If you want to request either, please do so in advance.

- **Academic Dishonesty**: Plagiarism results in failure in the class and referral to an academic dean. Plagiarism includes: copying sentences or fragments from any source without quotes or references; not citing every source used in your papers; citing internet information without proper citation; presenting someone else’s work as your own; or copying verbatim from any source. You are subject to the GSAS guidelines on academic integrity: https://gsas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/gsas/about-gsas/policies-and-procedures/gsas-statement-on-academic-integrity.html.

- **Academic Accommodations**: Academic accommodations are available to any student with a chronic, psychological, visual, mobility, learning disability, or who is deaf or hard of hearing. Students should please register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980.

NYU Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities
726 Broadway, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10003-6675
Voice/TTY Fax: 212-995-4114
Web site: http://www.nyu.edu/csd
Schedule

- **1/24 - Introduction**
  - Reading: MW, “What research is and how researchers think about it”
  - No assignment

- **1/31 - Selecting a topic**
  - Reading: MW, “Defining a project: topic, question, problem, working hypothesis”
  - Assignment: Come up with two possible topics for an M.A. project. For each topic, write 250 words about what question you would be asking and how you would be attempting to answer it.

- **2/7 - Conducting research**
  - Reading: MW, “Finding useful sources, engaging your sources”
  - Assignment: For each M.A. project idea, write 250 words on what kind of research will be necessary for that project, along with any questions or comments that you may have about that.

- **2/14 - Public speaking**
  - Reading: MW, “Presenting research in alternative forums”
  - Assignment: Create a 5-minute powerpoint presentation in which you explain your general (expected) project topic to a general audience in simple, accessible terms.

- **2/28 - Public writing**
  - Reading: Mira Sucharov, “Writing an effective op-ed,” “Striking an effective online voice”
  - Assignment: Write a 500 word op-ed about your topic. You are welcome to discuss your research on this topic or another aspect of this topic, as appropriate.

- **3/7 - Developing your project**
  - Reading: MW, “Constructing your argument,” “Drafting your paper”
  - Assignment: Write a 500 word summary of the current state of your project, along with questions or comments about how to develop the project from here.

- **3/21 - Professional advancement**
  - Reading: Benjamin Todd, “All the best advice we could find on how to get a job” (online)
  - Assignment: Prepare an updated resume / curriculum vitae and a one-page cover letter for the application for your dream job (or any other relevant opportunity).

- **3/28 - Revising your project**
  - Reading: MW, “Revising your draft,” “Learning from comments on your paper”
  - Assignment: Write a 500 word summary of the current state of your project, along with questions or comments about how to develop the project from here.

- **4/4 - Self-care**
  - Reading: Vox Conversations, “Work as identity, burnout as lifestyle” (online)
  - Assignment: Write a 500 word summary of your current approach to self-care and work-life balance, along with any questions or comments that you may have about this topic.

- **4/11 - Class presentations**
  - Reading: Student works in progress
  - Assignment: Write at least two questions or constructive comments on each of the works in progress distributed for this week, and come to class prepared to discuss them.
• **4/18 - Class presentations**
  – Reading: Student works in progress
  – Assignment: Write at least two questions or constructive comments on each of the works in progress distributed for this week, and come to class prepared to discuss them.

• **4/25 - Class presentations**
  – Reading: Student works in progress
  – Assignment: Write at least two questions or constructive comments on each of the works in progress distributed for this week, and come to class prepared to discuss them.

• **5/2 - Class presentations**
  – Reading: Student works in progress
  – Assignment: Write at least two questions or constructive comments on each of the works in progress distributed for this week, and come to class prepared to discuss them.

• **5/9 - Graduate presentations**
  – No reading
  – No assignment