

SPST699 16

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : SPST699 **Title :** Space Studies Capstone

Length of Course : 16

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: Preparation for the Master of Science in Space Studies Thesis begins on day one of a student's graduate program of study. The theories, research methods, analytical skills, and substantive knowledge obtained through the Space Studies curriculum provide the basis for the thesis project. In this course, instructors guide students through the thesis process. Students are expected to submit all required components of the research process, including a thesis proposal. The thesis proposal must provide a clear description of a contestable question or problem and a proposed method of answering the question or solving the problem. The thesis requires students to present an original argument using proper academic writing conventions including carefully documented primary and/or secondary sources. Guidance on the format of the thesis and proposal are contained in the APUS End of Program Manual. NOTE: This course may not be taken until all other courses are COMPLETED and student has a 3.0 GPA. THIS COURSE IS 16 WEEKS.

Course Scope:

At the end of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to establish a thesis statement, write a proposal, conduct research through the use of primary and secondary sources, develop a research method, conduct detailed analysis and present the findings in a well-written and professionally formatted graduate-level thesis.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to

- Describe the components of a thesis
- Demonstrate the ability to plan and conduct an original research project
- Demonstrate the ability to apply and improve qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods research skills
- Demonstrate the ability to identify and use appropriate scholarly resources in the development of the thesis
- Demonstrate the ability to work independently with the help of a faculty advisor
- Demonstrate, through effective written communication, the independent research and the results to defend the chosen thesis topic

Outline

Week 1:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Proposal: Due end of Week 4

Introduction Forum (Available at start of class – due end of week 1)

Week 2:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Proposal: Due end of Week 4

Introduction Forum (Available at start of class – due end of week 1)

Week 3:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Proposal: Due end of Week 4

Introduction Forum (Available at start of class – due end of week 1)

Week 4:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Proposal: Due end of Week 4

Introduction Forum (Available at start of class – due end of week 1)

Week 5:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Draft: Due end of Week 12

Week 6:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Draft: Due end of Week 12

Week 7:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Draft: Due end of Week 12

Week 8:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Draft: Due end of Week 12

Week 9:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Draft: Due end of Week 12

Week 10:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Draft: Due end of Week 12

Week 11:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Draft: Due end of Week 12

Week 12:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis Draft: Due end of Week 12

Week 13:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis for Evaluation: Due end of Week 16

Week 14:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis for Evaluation: Due end of Week 16

Week 15:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Thesis for Evaluation: Due end of Week 16

Week 16:

Lesson Subjects/Assignments

Evaluation

Grades for this course will be based on the final thesis.

Introduction Forum

In week 1, you are required to post in the introductions forum, and the post must be at least 250 words to meet the APUS-wide requirement. Details about this posting are in the description at the top of that forum. This assignment is worth 2% of your overall grade. Also, please complete the quiz "Are you ready to write a thesis?"

Quiz

Please complete the quiz "Are you ready to write a thesis?" Although not graded, the quiz will help get things moving along.

Thesis Proposal

The thesis proposal is required however it is not included in the overall grade. Any topic related to space is acceptable. However you'll need to present your idea in a thesis proposal. Use the example in the End of Program Manual. Once your topic has been approved (annotated in the feedback area of the thesis proposal assignment or through an individual message), start researching and writing!

Thesis Draft

The thesis draft is required however it is not included in the overall grade. Provide a draft of your thesis one month prior to the thesis due date to allow adequate time for the professor to provide feedback and necessary vectors.

Thesis for Evaluation

The thesis is due by the last day of the course and is 98% of your overall grade. The thesis will be graded against the rubric located in the resources area of the classroom.

All assignments in this course are given to you prior to the due date. The "due date" for all assignments is the week in which the assignment is due. For the purposes of this course, a "**week**" is defined as the time period between Monday–Sunday. The **first week** begins on the first day of the semester and ends at 11:59 PM EST the following **Sunday**.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
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Materials

Book Title: Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches, 4th ed. (Ebook format only available at the APUS Bookstore, please try other sources if a hard copy is preferred.)

Author: John Creswell

Publication Info: Sage

ISBN: 9781452226101

Recommended Course Textbooks

Creswell, John W. Timothy F. Research Design, Third Edition. Sage Publications, Inc, 2009.

Supplemental Material

Supplemental material in the form of PowerPoint files is located online in the classroom.

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 15% of the grade for each day late, not to exceed 5 days.
- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not

copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says “I agree” is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.

Identity Verification & Live Proctoring

- Faculty may require students to provide proof of identity when submitting assignments or completing assessments in this course. Verification may be in the form of a photograph and/or video of the student’s face together with a valid photo ID, depending on the assignment format.
- Faculty may require live proctoring when completing assessments in this course. Proctoring may include identity verification and continuous monitoring of the student by webcam and microphone during testing.

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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