

HONR 4500H Capstone
Semester Fall 2025
Classroom Virtual: MS Teams
Day/Time Friday 1:00-1:50 p.m.
Professor Dr. Will Bryant
Email wbryant1@augusta.edu
Office # Summerville Quad Wall Building #117
Office Hrs. MWF 9:00-11:00, or by appointment



Required Textbooks & Supplies

There are no materials needed for this course.

Course Description & Requirements

The Augusta University course catalog describes HONR 4500H as “An integrative course providing a vehicle for self-assessment and for program-assessment. Variable content defined by the graduating honors students. Provides opportunity for possible presentation of honors thesis and mentoring of other honors students.” This quote consists of three main parts:

- 1) **Assessment**
 - Assess how well the Augusta University Honors Program is serving its students
 - Assess student’s own contributions to the Augusta University Honors Program
- 2) **Service**
 - Offer suggestions to improve the Augusta University Honors Program
 - Help students at earlier stages of the Augusta University Honors Program
- 3) **Professionalism**
 - Present your thesis work in one or more approved academic settings or submit your thesis for publication

[These three parts present the core structure for HONR 4500H. And, the explanation of each offers insight into what is expected of successful Capstone students.]

To complete and pass this course, students must achieve the following **3 outcomes**:

- 1) Contribute to the assessment of the Augusta University Honors Program.
 - This requires you to **write 4 quality self-assessment essays** during the semester, as well as **discuss your assessments** with your professor and classmates during class meetings.
- 2) Develop academic and professional skills transferable to your future education or career, and **exhibit characteristics of professionalism** in the classroom and at academic conferences.
 - This requires you to **present your own work** at a discipline-appropriate and approved academic venue, or confirmation of **sending your work out for publication**.
 - You are also expected to **attend class each week**¹ –unless otherwise indicated, be on time, remain in class until it concludes, and be respectful.
- 3) Contribute to developing and improving student experience in the Augusta University Honors Program.

¹ Should you miss a meeting, you are still required to turn in any work assigned.

- This requires you to **contribute ideas during class time** to improve the overall Honors Program experience for its current and prospective students.

Grades

According to HP rules, the grade for HONR 4500H is awarded by the professor. The distinction among grades of A, B, C, D, and F will be determined by the quality of your success to fulfill the three outcomes discussed above. In short, these outcomes refer to: attendance²; contributions during class time; completion and sophistication of written assignments; presentation of your own work at a discipline-appropriate and approved academic venue, or confirmation of sending your work out for publication; and, timely completion of any outstanding thesis requirements before the end of classes.

- To earn an 'A' you must complete all the following:
 - Successfully complete all 3 required outcomes discussed above:
 - Submit and discuss 4 high-quality self-assessment response papers on time
 - Present your project at one or more approved academic settings or submit thesis work to a professional or undergraduate research journal
 - If applicable, attend and participate in sessions with pre-sequence students, Project Proposal students, Prospectus students and students preparing for conference presentations
 - Attend and participate³ in at least 10 of 11 designated (*) class meetings
 - If applicable, attend one-on-one thesis meetings in weeks 6, 11 and 15
 - Submit completed and approved thesis by the assigned date
- To earn a 'B' you must complete all the following:
 - Successfully complete all **required outcomes** (see above)
 - Attend and participate in at least 9 of 11 designated (*) class meetings
 - If applicable, attend one-on-one thesis meetings in weeks 6, 11 and 15
 - Submit completed and approved thesis by the assigned date
- To earn a 'C' you must complete all the following:
 - Successfully complete all **required outcomes** (see above)
 - Attend and participate in at least 8 of 11 designated (*) class meetings
 - If applicable, attend one-on-one thesis meetings in weeks 6, 11 and 15
 - Submit completed and approved thesis by the assigned date

Class Policies

By remaining in this course past the add/drop deadline for this semester you indicate your agreement to abide by all course policies listed in this syllabus, and any other relevant policies or guidelines in course materials found within the Augusta University Student Manual and/or the current Augusta University Undergraduate Catalog. Failing to adhere to these policies may affect your grade negatively, and/or may result in referral to administration in cases of academic dishonesty or other inappropriate behavior.

² Attendance will be based on presence and participation in course meetings. Distracting behavior, lack of participation or inattention during class will result in being declared absent for the class meeting. Also, absences occurring on the due date of any assignment must be excused if you wish to receive some credit for the assignment. You must provide written documentation from an authoritative source to support any excused absences.

³ Your participation grade is one that reflects your dedication to the work of the course: by completing work on time, coming to class prepared to share ideas, and listening thoughtfully to your classmates' and professor's comments, you can earn an outstanding participation grade. Conversely, lateness, a failure to complete assignments on time, unprofessional behavior, and/or a lack of engagement in discussion will lower your overall grade for the class.

Professionalism & Respect

Displaying a lack of respect for others will not be tolerated. Racism, sexism, classism, ageism, and other forms of bigotry are unwelcomed in class. Any student whose behavior is disruptive either to the professors or to other students, which includes the use of profane or sacrilegious language, will be withdrawn from the course.

Disruptive Behavior

Faculty members have the right and responsibility to maintain classroom order and to make public or private requests that a student refrain from disruptive behavior. If you disrupt class, your professor may ask you to leave, mark you absent, and penalize you for work missed because of that absence. If such misbehavior continues, the student will be withdrawn from the class.

Disability-Related Accommodation

Augusta University abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act (equal and timely access) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (non-discrimination on the basis of disability). If you have a disability and need academic accommodations but have not yet registered with Testing and Disability Services (TDS), please contact the office as soon as possible for more information and/or to initiate the process for accessing academic accommodations. Contact information: (706) 737-1469 or tds@augusta.edu.

Course Withdrawal

“Initiating a withdrawal is the responsibility of the student... A student who registers for a course and stops attending class (or never attends class) is not automatically withdrawn by the instructor and is subject to receiving a grade of W (before midterm), WF, or F for the course.” (AU policy on Adding, Dropping, and Withdrawing from a Course) If you withdraw before midterm a W will appear on your transcript and will not affect your GPA. If you withdraw after midterm, a WF will appear on your transcript and will affect your GPA.

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to adhere to the academic regulations set forth in the [Augusta University Undergraduate Catalog](#) regarding cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and other ethical and behavioral issues. Students are also expected to follow those guidelines in resolving any issues, including appeals, filing of grievances, etc. Additional information about these policies can be found in the [Augusta University Student Manual](#). Violations of academic honesty include, but are not limited to, cheating of all kinds, plagiarism, research misconduct, collusion, and false statements made to avoid negative academic consequences (AU policy on Academic Honesty).

Counseling services

AU students can seek psychological support at the University Counseling Center. Student Counseling & Psychological Services (SCAPS) can be reached by calling the 24/7 support line at 833-910-3364 for urgent concerns. Students interested in counseling can also call the office at 706-737-1471, email SCAPS, go to the Jags Live Well website or visit the following on-campus locations from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Summerville Campus: Central Energy Building; Health Sciences Campus: Student Center second floor

Writing & Communication Support

The Augusta University Center for Writing Excellence is a free service available to all undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff that provides one-on-one peer consultations that empower writers, at any stage, to make well-informed decisions about their overall writing process, including brainstorming, drafting, and revising projects. The Center also offers support

with oral presentations and multimedia projects. In-person, live online chat, and written feedback online appointments are available to all AU community members. Appointments can be made online via their scheduler. The Center for Writing Excellence is located on the Summerville campus in Allgood Hall, rm. E158 and on the Health Sciences campus in Greenblatt Library rm. 2101. Contact the Center at cwe@augusta.edu or (706) 737-1402. Please check their website for updates to hours of operation and services.

Calendar

- **All class meetings are online through MS Teams.** While we are meeting, please exercise the following courtesies:
 - Meet from a place where you can speak aloud—preferably unmasked—without distractions. (Minimize background distractions as much as possible.) Bad locations include a public space in a library, a car, or an active lab. Good locations include a quiet study room, your room or apartment or a secluded place outdoors.
 - **Cameras must be on for all class meetings. Failure to do so will result in an absent mark for the class.** Discussion is better when we can see one another. Don't turn your camera off once class gets going for a while. Keep it on the entire time. Also, do not be in class while you are driving or walking.
- Please be aware that changes might be made to this calendar depending upon the needs of our class and the Honors Program.

Week	Date	Class Activity	Notes
1	Aug. 15 th *	Discuss syllabus and course expectations	
2	Aug. 22 nd *	What have you been working on?	
3	Aug. 29 th *	Career Center presentation: Résumés and Interviews (Dr. Kimberly Norville)	
4	Sept. 5 th *	Discuss the Honors Program: Core	
5	Sept. 12 th *	Discuss the Honors Program: Undergraduate research and thesis process	Due: One-page assessment of the Honors Program: Core (by Friday, 12 th @ 4:00 p.m.)
6	Sept. 19 th	No regular class meeting —Students carrying “I” or “IP” on Thesis will meet individually with Dr. Sadenwasser to discuss their thesis progress	Due: 5-week reports (for students carrying “I” or “IP” on Thesis) due to Dr. Sadenwasser by Monday the 15th
7	Sept. 26 th *	Center for Writing Excellence presentation: Publishing your Thesis (Dr. Brilynn Janckila)	Due: One-page assessment of the Honors Program: Undergraduate research and thesis process (by Friday, 26 th @ 4:00 p.m.)
8	Oct. 3 rd *	Discuss the Honors Program: Breaking Boundaries	
9	Oct. 10 th	NO CLASS- FALL PAUSE	Due: One-page assessment: Breaking Boundaries (by Friday, 10 th @ 4:00 p.m.)

10	Oct. 17 th *	Discuss ideas to develop or improve student experience in the Honors Program	
11	Oct. 24 th	No regular class meeting —Students carrying “I” or “IP” on Thesis will meet individually with Dr. Sadenwasser to discuss thesis progress	Due: One-page assessment: Discuss ideas to develop student experience in the Honors Program (by Friday, 24 th @ 4:00 p.m.) Due: 10-week reports (for students carrying “I” or “IP” on Thesis) due to Dr. Sadenwasser by Monday the 20th
12	Oct. 31 st *	Discussion: What’s in a conference workshop?	
13	Nov. 7 th *	Discuss service and social activities: Meet with HPSA officers and committee chairs	
14	Nov. 14 th *	Discuss why you joined the Honors Program?	
15	Nov. 21 st	No regular class meeting —meet individually with Dr. Sadenwasser for 10 mins. to discuss thesis progress (students carrying “I” or “IP” on Thesis only)	Due: Final copy of thesis, acceptance form and rubric (for students carrying “I” or “IP” on Thesis) due to Dr. Sadenwasser by requested date

Recommended Presentation Venues

The Honors Program vouches for the following conferences and presentation opportunities, but we also encourage you to discuss professional conferences with your adviser. We also encourage you to discuss professional publication opportunities with your adviser.

Venue	Location	Date(s) of Events	Proposal Due Date
Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference	Emory University in Oxford, GA	Nov. 7 th – 8 th	October 1 st
National Collegiate Honors Council Conference	San Diego, CA	Nov. 6 th – 9 th	Closed