Methodology Courses in Other Departments

Recommendations for all CSS Students

The capstone in CSS will be an extensive research project. We therefore STRONGLY recommend taking a social science course that teaches methods and/or research design. We especially recommend taking it the spring semester of the student’s junior year with some idea as to what field the student wishes to write the capstone in, in the Senior year. Each of the departments (except the Quantitative Analysis Center) tailors its methods/research design courses to address topics of research in that particular field. Hence knowing what general field your capstone project is in will help you choose the proper course. Below is a list of the principal methods courses in the social sciences. Any of these courses would be an acceptable means of preparing yourself to write a stronger capstone. Be aware that there may be courses that are not on this list that provide a sizable element of methods and research design. Moreover, students may have taken courses demanding a very long research paper, and with that assignment the instructor may have provided extensive coaching in methods or research design. All such courses would be enthusiastically welcome as well. In essence, the more formal training one has in methods and research design before starting the capstone, the better. When taking any methods/research design course, students should alert the instructors about their capstone projects and explore possibilities for doing assignments on those capstone topics in those classes.

List of recommended courses on methods and or research design.

- Psychology 202 Qualitative Research Methods in Psychology
- Psychology 207 Research Methods in Developmental Psychology
- Psychology 208 Research Methods on Emotion
- Psychology 210 Research Methods in Cognition
- Psychology 213 Research Methods in Social Psychology
- Psychology 215 Research Methods: Behavioral Methods in Animal Research
- QAC 201 Applied Data Analysis
- Government 366 Empirical Methods for Political Science
- Government 367 Political Science by the Numbers
- Sociology 202 Sociological Analysis
- Economics 300 Quantitative Methods in Economics
- Economics 385 Econometrics
- History 362 Issues in Contemporary Historiography

We also recommend the following Math courses for capstones containing a large quantitative content.

- Math 132 Elementary Statistics
- Math 232 Mathematical Statistics