

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
CONFLICT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION MASTER'S PROGRAM

CRES 651: ACADEMIC CAPSTONE -- COURSE CONCENTRATION

Spring 2021

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| Class Meetings: | W 3:30-4:30 |
| Class Location: | Zoom room ID through Canvas & TBA |
| CRN: | 31729 |
| Instructor: | Edgar Temam |
| Office Hours: | By appointment |
| E-mail: | etemam@uoregon.edu |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This one-credit course represents a component of the Course Concentration final project. It can also be taken in lieu of the Capstone Seminar for students completing their final project through the Course Concentration.

With the aid of the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of the field of interdisciplinary studies (IDS), students will synthesize or integrate in a Summary Report the expertise that they have gained through the course concentration, consider how this expertise can be used to advance their career, and complete their oral defense.

Students, moreover, will read each other's summary report, offer written feedback, attend each other's oral defense, and ask questions or make comments during these defenses.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a result of taking this course, with the aid of the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of IDS, students will be able to do the following:

- Describe the disciplinary expertise they've gained through the series of courses taken in their course concentration.
- Identify how this disciplinary expertise advances their career aspirations.
- Synthesize or integrate disciplinary expertise with the body of knowledge acquired during the CRES Master's Program.
- Summarize the first three objectives in a paper--namely, the Summary Report.
- Present this information in an oral defense.
- Reflect on and practice marketing their expertise to potential employers.
- Offer written feedback on peers' summary reports.

- And thereby act partially as thesis committee members would at oral defenses, by asking questions and making comments during their peers' oral defenses.

COURSE TEXTS

Required

- COURSE READINGS either through UO Libraries, from websites offering free access, or on Canvas (including "Quotes, Etc." as well as the other students' Summary Reports)

Recommended

- See "Recommended" on Canvas

GRADING

This course is graded Pass/No Pass. You must satisfactorily complete all three elements of the course requirements to pass this course: (1) Attendance and Contributions, (2) Summary Report, and (3) Oral Defense.

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| Contributions | 30% |
| Summary Report | 40% |
| Oral Defense | 30% |

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

(1) Attendance and Contributions. Completion of this element requires you to attend class meetings each week on time and prepared to contribute as well as to complete all assignments, including the Summary-Report-Peer-Feedback assignments. Here are some ways for you to make positive contributions: preparing by reading critically our assigned readings as well as noting questions and comments to be addressed in class discussions; engaging in class discussions, which includes active listening and offering interpretations, insights, and responsible feedback; offering written feedback on your classmates' Summary Reports; engaging in class activities; cooperating in group-work; and acting partially as a thesis committee member would during oral defenses.

(2) Summary Report. The Summary Report must be completed on time, at the level of quality specified in the prompt, to receive a passing grade. In addition to meeting the prompt's specifications, the oral-defense version of the report must be as complete as possible (considering relevant courses being taken concurrently with this Academic Capstone) and approved for a defense.

The Summary Report represents a critical component of the Course Concentration. Although it is much shorter than a thesis, it should demonstrate the same level of analytical rigor and writing quality as a thesis or terminal project. See the prompt on Canvas for requirements and suggestions.

Generally (see the prompt for specifics), with the aid of the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of IDS, the Summary Report should do all of the following:

- (1) Discuss how your chosen course concentration advances your professional goals and planned career trajectory.
- (2) Describe the disciplines or fields in which your selected courses reside.
- (3) Summarize the knowledge that you acquired through your course concentration, especially terms of art, key concepts, and insights from these selected disciplines or fields.
- (4) Situate the selected disciplines or fields relative to the field of conflict resolution, especially the respects in which it (a) diverges from, (b) intersects with, and (c) complements the field of conflict resolution.
- (5) Identify job opportunities presented at the intersection of the selected disciplines or fields and the field of conflict resolution.
- (6) Describe the steps you plan to take to deepen your knowledge and expertise within these selected disciplines or fields.

(3) Oral Defense. The Oral Defense, which consists of two phases, must be completed on time and at the level of quality specified in the prompt to receive a passing grade.

The official scheduling of the defense depends on the approval of the oral-defense version of the Summary Report.

In your oral defense, with the aid of the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of IDS, you should educate your peers and other attendees about the disciplines or fields to which you were exposed during the course concentration. You should also explain how these disciplines or fields relate to, intersect with, and are in tension with the field of conflict resolution. Lastly, you should describe potential job opportunities at the intersection and your planned career trajectory.

You will only have about 20 minutes to do this initial phase of your defense, which is not a very long time. You do not need to explain concepts and information that your peers already know from the CRES curriculum. You might consider practicing your presentation to ensure that you will stay within the time limits and deliver your content smoothly.

Following this initial phase of your defense, you will have the opportunity to respond to questions or comments from your peers and me as well as from the audience, which might include outside visitors since oral defenses are open to the public.

I recommend that you work with your peers—discussing and learning together and helping each other.

COURSE SCHEDULE
(subject to change)

See "Schedule" on Canvas.

COURSE POLICIES

Office-Hours Meetings: You are welcome to schedule meetings with me.

Email: Please feel free to email me.