

Curry College General Education Department

Capstone Offerings: Spring 2025

Capstone: Beer (GEN 3001 - 1 & 6; Alan Revering)

Our theme is the place of beer in human life. Beer can be seen as a simple and fun drink — but as we look deeper, lots of questions can arise: When, where, and how did the first person brew the first beer? What do we mean by “brewing” and “fermenting”? How does it work, and what can we learn by understanding the science? How have different societies understood, consumed, celebrated, and regulated beer over the centuries and around the world? What contemporary issues does it pose for the United States?

Capstone: GOATs (GEN 3001 - 2; Ryan Theroux)

Muhammad Ali, Simone Biles, Tom Brady, Roger Federer, LeBron James, Michael Jordan, Lionel Messi, Babe Ruth, Serena Williams. Different athletes, different sports, different generations, but all referred to as a “GOAT” – Greatest of All Time in their respective crafts. Think about your own major for a moment...does the concept of GOATs go beyond the world of sports? Take the “greatest of all time” in business for example ... Barra, Bezos, Branson, Buffett, Disney, Gates, Huffington, Lauder, Musk, Nooyi, Jobs, Sandberg, Stewart, Winfrey ... just to name a few. In this capstone course, we will explore the GOAT phenomenon and the societal obsession with an emphasis among sports fans (i.e. “They are clearly the GOAT— look at the numbers!”). Topics including sports history and eras, the evolving and behavioral nature of competition, and the intensity of rivalries and how they are created will make up the background content of the course. Other topics including race, age, privilege, gender, and sexuality will be considered through course readings and resources from a humanities, social sciences, sciences, and arts perspective. The question of what makes an athlete considered to be a “GOAT” from a sports fan and societal viewpoint will be explored throughout the course.

Capstone: Horrorgorical (GEN 3001 - 3; Jean-Paul DiSciscio)

In this course, we watch and discuss horror films to uncover their artistic and societal importance. Each film represents a different American decade, highlighting its social and political relevance. Through engaging activities, and a multidisciplinary approach that includes Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Science, students analyze themes and

explore the cultural significance of these landmark American horror movies, encouraging critical thinking and discussions.

Capstone: Voyages (GEN 3001 - 4; Bill Nancarrow)

This course will explore voyages of many kinds--commerce, science, religion, discovery, artistry, and exploration. Topics include the voyages of Columbus and the resulting Columbian Exchange, the Age of Sail and global cultural exchange, Darwin's Voyage of the Beagle and its impact, the Space Race and the future of space exploration, and artistic voyages as an expression of human understanding. Students will reflect on the human impulse to explore and use contemporary resources to consider future frontiers of exploration.

Capstone: Death of a President (GEN 3001 - 5; Mike Foster)

The assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy in November of 1963 remains one of the most tragic episodes in American history. His murder shocked and saddened America and the World, and, within days of his murder and the killing of his alleged assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, Americans demanded answers.

The death of the President affected Americans in many ways, and in this course, students will apply the knowledge and experience they have acquired through the General Education program, as well as their individual majors, to analyze the assassination and its aftermath. This exploration will include investigating and critically evaluating various conspiracy theories about the motive or motives behind the assassination, as well as the political, social and personal impacts of the tragedy on America and the world.

Capstone: Understanding "Intelligent" Technologies (GEN 3001 - 7; Rob MacDougall)

This Gen Ed Capstone course explores the relationships between technological innovation, consciousness and culture. Through an interdisciplinary lens we consider historical, philosophical, and social scientific perspectives to examine our increasingly technologized society. The course emphasizes a humanistic approach to understanding the ways we are influenced by and, in turn, influence technologies that constitute environments affecting how human beings individually and collectively perceive, think, and act.

Capstone: Secret Life of Bees (GEN 3001 - 8; Rob Smid)

This course examines the history and contemporary practice of beekeeping from multiple disciplinary perspectives, including biology, sociology, history, psychology, economics, philosophy, and graphic design. Drawing on these perspectives, students will be able to work on a project that highlights and celebrates their interests and talents either within or outside of their major. Students will also have the opportunity to examine a fully functioning beehive under the guidance of a seasoned beekeeper (fully protective bee suits are

provided), although this is not required for the course. And, sweetest of all, students will be able to taste different varieties of honey to learn how diverse the products of beekeeping can be!