

# Syllabus for MSMGT 790 Capstone Preparation Course

## Course Description

The course builds on the methods used in sustainability management research covered in MSMGT 720 to help students develop a research proposal for their MSMGT Capstone course project (792). Typically this project will involve an in-depth look at a sustainability issue applicable in their place of employment or in a local not-for profit organization.

Course topics include:

- Review of organizational research methodologies (MSMGT 720)
- Literature reviews
- Types of qualitative and quantitative research
- Writing the research proposal
- Presentation of the research proposal

## Course Learning Outcomes

- Apply a holistic sustainability perspective to an organization's specific problem.
- Formulate and write a well-defined and feasible research proposal for the capstone course project.
- Compare the strengths and limitations of various project study designs.
- Identify and apply the appropriate literature to support your proposal.
- Identify potential limitations of the proposal.
- Assess the potential implications of your proposal.

## Course Materials

Information on course materials can be found in the [textbook section](#) of the SMGT website.

**This course also requires a video recorder.** Cell phones with video cameras may suffice, and most laptops today have a camera and microphone. Please contact your instructor for more information. You will not need the device until the second half of the semester.

## Course Requirements

This course will include an online discussion of the various course topics the first couple of weeks. The balance of the semester is an independent individual exploration of

potential capstone projects based upon your experience in the degree program applied to a specific work issue.

**There will be four written assignments related to the research proposal (1 page each). In addition, you will have to complete the following two major projects:**

1. Individual written research proposal for MSMGT 792:

Students will complete a project proposal paper of between 8 and 10 pages (typed, double-spaced). The paper should describe, in detail, a proposed project to study in your Capstone Experience (MSMGT 792). The paper should include:

- An **introduction**, in which you describe your project
- As summary of the relevant **research literature** (including a full bibliography)
- A **methods** section, which describes how you will obtain the information for your project,
- A **results** section in which you outline expected results, and
- A **discussion** section in which you expound upon the potential ramifications of your project.

2. A video presentation of the proposal:

A video presentation will be posted to the course site for other students to assess. This presentation will consist of a description of your project and why you chose your topic, a brief summary describing what is known about the topic and what you believe needs to be known next. Presentations will describe all aspects of the proposed study. See course for specifics, including the presentation rubric.

### **Grading Policy**

Grading is based on completeness and quality of the research proposal. Of particular importance will be a careful definition of the research design and the appropriateness of the data gathering technique selected. The final product of this course should be a study that can be successfully conducted during the 792 course and provide value to the organization being studied.

One-page written assignments (4@25 pts each)	100
Written project proposal	300
Video presentation	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>