

## CM 499: From Capstone to Career

CM 499.01 — Professor Nina Hien and CM 499.02 — Professor Elizabeth Alsop



### Communication and Media Capstone Workshop

This capstone is designed as a workshop to help you make a strong transition into your next professional stage. In it, you'll have the chance to discover and develop a useful piece (or two) for your academic, professional or creative portfolios.

The structure of this course is set-up to help you brainstorm, pitch, build and fine-tune the material that will be the most useful for **you** and **your goals**. Although capstones often carry a heavy weight and may seem overwhelming, this one is structured to help you complete the work that **you** want or need to do at **your own pace**. And you won't be completely alone trying to figure all this out since your instructor and your fellow students will be your allies, audience and guides throughout the process. (You'll be able to bounce your ideas off them!)

In recent semesters, students worked on the following projects:

- A fully conceptualized podcast series (with a polished sample episode) about Black and Brown adoption from the perspective of adoptees and other parties involved in the process.
- A complete application package (personal statement, work samples, resume, etc.) for M.A. programs in Organizational Leadership and Adult Learning. (This student was accepted into all of the programs to which the application was submitted!)
- An interactive video game that helps people navigate grief and loss. The student completed one stage that's been designed and coded with all the material and components that she needs to pitch it to video companies.
- A ready-to-present pitch-deck of a television pilot—a “dramedy” about a Latina millennial who leaves New York to begin again in her hometown of Chicago
- A digital travel-focused magazine that combines the student's professional and personal interests and can be used as a portfolio to showcase different abilities and skills

- An interior design portfolio with samples of work and experience that the student is using to apply for jobs in this field.

Other examples of projects you might choose to work on are:

- developing a research proposal/project that would enhance your current job position and interests
- conceptualizing and shooting a photo essay or a short film that you've been dying to work on but never had the time or space
- conducting research about professional opportunities and establishing your resume and cover letter for your job search
- writing a short story, an in-depth article or essay, or a scholarly article that you would like to get published
- And, seriously, whatever project you think would most help you move into the next phase...