For Faculty and Prospective Faculty: Information about and Brief Course Descriptions for Capital Scholars Honors Program (CSHP) Courses

Mission statement: “The mission of the UIS Capital Scholars Honors Program is to provide a challenging, interdisciplinary, educational experience in which well-qualified, motivated students gain understanding and leadership skills to engage the world.”

Capital Scholars Honors courses help students fulfill many UIS General Education requirements in their first and second years. CSHP is a living-learning community with most lower-division students living in Lincoln Residence Hall. Each class of about 100 students matriculates and moves through the program as a cohort. CSHP courses are unique and only open to students enrolled in the Program. In the lower division, students take writing, science, humanities, and social sciences classes in the Honors program (designated with the prefix “CAP”). In the upper division, students enroll in classes in the major, finish UIS Gen Ed requirements, and take CAP Global Issues and Senior Seminar courses. In their senior year, students present Senior Seminar papers at a Senior Symposium. There are other optional CAP courses in Peer Mentoring and Peer Tutoring. Courses are taught by instructors based in the Honors program and drawn from across the University.

Introductory
CAP102: Introduction to Honors
Prepares students for University life and Honors level interdisciplinary coursework. It is both knowledge and skill based. A grade of C or better is required for remaining in CAP Program. 2.0 credit hours. Several sections offered in fall semester, each taught by a single instructor using a common syllabus. Taken fall semester freshman year.

Writing Sequence
CAP 111: Honors Composition
In the first course of the Capital Scholars Honors First Year Writing sequence, students build critical thinking and writing skills in a workshop environment. A grade of C or better is required to progress to the CAP 115 and CAP 123 link. This course fulfills a general education requirement at UIS in the area of Written Communication. 3.0 credit hours. Several sections offered in fall semester, each taught by a single instructor using a common syllabus. Taken fall semester freshman year.

CAP 115: Interdisciplinary Writing
In the second course of the First Year Writing sequence, students explore interdisciplinarity and research techniques while producing integrative assignments. Major writing assignments evolve from and complement CAP 123: How Do You Know? Exploring Human Knowledge. This course fulfills a general education requirement at UIS in the area of Written Communication. 3.0 credit hours. Several sections offered in spring semester, each taught by a single instructor using a common syllabus. Taken spring semester freshman year. Important: CAP 115 is ‘linked’ with CAP 123: How Do You Know? Exploring Human Knowledge, and students must enroll in and pass both classes in the same semester. The ‘link’ entails 2-3 jointly created/graded assignments. Each CAP 123 section is linked with two CAP 115 writing sections, with two instructors for CAP 123 and one for each section of CAP 115. This course entails advanced planning and teamwork with the Honors Program’s Coordinator of Composition, as well as the 123 instructors.
**Humanities/Social Sciences Sequence (a.k.a. The “Question Courses”)**

Each of the interdisciplinary ‘question courses’ fulfills humanities and social sciences general education requirements and is taken sequentially during the first two years.

**CAP 122: Who Am I? Exploring Identity and Community**
Explores the concept of self. Major topics include the definition of self in various times and cultures, the relation of self to others and to society, the definition and presentation of self at various stages of life, and other factors affecting understanding of self, self-development, and community. 3.0 credit hours. Several sections per semester, each team-taught by two instructors. Instructors may choose to organize the course around a specific theme. Taken fall of freshman year.

**CAP 123: How Do You Know? Exploring Human Knowledge**
Uses current issues, case studies, and direct experience to explore the methods that various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences employ to justify claims to knowledge. Topics include the reliability of sense perception, the influences of culture on science, research methods, fallacious arguments, and poetic truth. 3.0 credit hours. Several sections per semester, each team-taught by two instructors. Instructors may choose to organize the course around a specific theme. Taken spring of freshman year. *Important: CAP 123 is ‘linked’ with CAP 115: Interdisciplinary Writing, and students must enroll in and pass both classes in the same semester. The ‘link’ entails 2-3 jointly created/graded assignments between CAP123 and CAP115. Typically each CAP 123 section is linked with two CAP 115 writing sections with two instructors for CAP 123 and one for each section of CAP 115. This course entails advanced planning and teamwork with the Honors Program’s Coordinator of Composition, as well as the 115 instructors.*

Seeks to illuminate assumptions of “the good” by attempting to uncover those aspects of life considered to be valuable. Course content is organized around historical and cross-cultural values as they are manifested in politics, economics, culture, science, art, and spirituality. Students will be challenged to examine their own values and will be encouraged to consider ways to change dominant culture consistent with their interpretation of the quality of life. 3.0 credit hours. Several sections per semester, each team-taught by two instructors. Instructors may choose to organize the course around a specific theme. Taken fall of sophomore year.

Explores various contexts of power by analyzing definitions, concepts, and theories of power and identifying who has power and who lacks it. Major topics will include comparisons of power in specific periods of history, cross-cultural views of power, political economy, new social movements, and personal power. 3.0 credit hours. Several sections per semester, each team-taught by two instructors. Instructors may choose to organize the course around a specific theme. Taken spring of sophomore year.

**Science Sequence**

**CAP 141: Biology and Chemistry of the Environment I**
Focuses on the ways humans interact with and affect the environment. Topics include the principal characteristics of the living and non-living components of the environment: atoms, matter, molecular structure, biomolecules, water, and energy, as well as cellular structure and organization. Includes lab. This course fulfills a general education requirement at UIS in the area of Life or Physical Science with Lab. 4.0 credit hours. Team taught by two instructors. May be taken freshman or sophomore year.
**CAP 142: Biology and Chemistry of the Environment II**
Includes the diversity of living things, the cell cycle, the energy of living systems, ecosystems, and human transformations of the environment. This course fulfills a general education requirement at UIS in the area of Life or Physical Science with Lab. 4.0 credit hours. Team taught by 2 instructors. May be taken freshman or sophomore year.

**Peer Tutoring**
**CAP 361: ECCE: Peer Tutoring**
Provides experiential learning for students receiving training in the practical and theoretical aspects of tutoring other students. This course fulfills an ECCE requirement at UIS in the area of Engagement Experience. Closed to first-semester students. 1.0 or 2.0 credit hours. Course is taught by a single instructor and offered in both the spring and fall semesters. Students are required to volunteer at studios to earn their clinical experience. This course trains students to become peer tutors, which are paid student work positions, requiring regular participation in the course beyond the semester of enrollment to document tutoring efforts and implement best practices. *Important: Because this course fulfills an ECCE requirement, syllabus must be approved by the CSHP Curriculum Committee and the UIS General Education Committee. This requires a bit more instructor planning and approval time. Forms for proposing ECCE courses can be found under the Academic Planning section of the Provost’s website.*

**Peer Mentoring**
**CAP 371: ECCE: Peer Mentoring**
Provides an experiential learning environment in which students receive training in the practical and theoretical aspects of peer mentoring. Students develop interpersonal skills as they mentor in both group and individual settings. This course fulfills an ECCE requirement at UIS in the area of Engagement Experience. 1.0 or 2.0 credit hours. Mentors are expected to remain mentors for the entire academic year and attend class in both the fall and the spring. Students who do not wish to take the course for credit may still participate on a voluntary basis. Class typically meets bi-weekly. *Important: Because this course fulfills an ECCE requirement, syllabus must be approved by the CSHP Curriculum Committee and the UIS General Education Committee. This requires a bit more instructor planning and approval time. Forms for proposing ECCE courses can be found under the Academic Planning section of the Provost’s website.*

**Global Issues**
**CAP 25X/ 35X: ECCE: [name of global theme/topic]**
A wide variety of courses that explore global and transnational issues. Emphasis varies depending on the instructor’s area of interest and expertise. CAP 25X can only be taken in the first two years; CAP 35X is closed to freshman. Course fulfills an Honors Global Awareness requirement and university requirement for ECCE: Global Awareness. 3.0 credit hours. Multiple sections per semester, each taught by one professor. Offered fall and spring semesters; 35X sections have more advanced course requirements than 25X sections. *Important: Because this course fulfills an ECCE requirement, syllabi must be approved by the CSHP Curriculum Committee and the UIS General Education Committee. This requires a bit more instructor planning and approval time. Forms for proposing ECCE courses can be found under the Academic Planning section of the Provost’s website.*

**Capstone/Closure Project**
**CAP 402: Senior Seminar**
Seniors in the Capital Scholars Honors Program research and write a lengthy paper, and develop it for presentation at the required Senior Symposium. Offered fall and spring; taken the semester prior to
Symposium participation. Passing grade in CAP 402 and satisfactory presentation at the Symposium are required for Honors designation on transcript. 1.0 credit hour; several sections per semester each taught by a single professor. Currently offered online and on ground. *Important: because similarity among the Senior Seminar sections is desirable, a meeting of all CAP 402 instructors is necessary prior to start of semester to produce a syllabus, paper assignment, and grading rubrics. One or two meetings during the semester may also be required.*