Applications for Spring 2019 Capstone classes are due by October 12, 2018. Please review all information below, and then click here for the capstone application.

The Department of Communication will offer TWO options for COMM 480 in the Spring 2019 semester.

Experimenting with Nonverbal Communication with Dr. Jenifer Kopfman
Or
Investigating Communication and Culture with Dr. Celeste Lacroix

Both of the COMM 480 classes will offer the option to finish COMM 481 in either summer or fall.

Experimenting with Nonverbal Communication
- COMM 480 will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:50am-12:05pm in Spring 2019
- COMM 481 Summer will meet on campus during Maymester
  Or
- COMM 481 Fall will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:50-12:05 in Fall 2019

Investigating Communication and Culture
- COMM 480 will meet Wednesdays 4:00-6:45pm in Spring 2019
- COMM 481 Summer will be online during the Summer I term
  Or
- COMM 481 Fall will be held in Trujillo, Spain

Detailed descriptions for all course options are below:
Experimenting with Nonverbal Communication (Dr. Jenifer Kopfman)
Spring 2019 Class meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:50am - 12:05pm

COMM 480 Overview
• How do people react when you stand too close to them during a conversation?
• In a job interview, what nonverbal cues will help you get hired?
• Can you change another person’s mood simply by changing the tone and pitch of your own voice?
• When your voice sends one message but your facial expression sends the opposite, which will your friends believe?
• Can you change the tone of a meeting with your boss simply by changing your eye contact?

Are you willing to be that awkward person to find the answer to these questions?

You have spent most of your communication major learning how to craft beautifully written messages and eloquently constructed speeches, but some researchers suggest that approximately two-thirds of all meaning is conveyed through nonverbal channels. Students in this capstone will spend the first eight weeks examining all of the nonverbal codes and conducting informal “experiments” to find answers to questions like those above. The rest of the capstone will be spent designing, executing, and writing your own project in one specific area of nonverbal communication, while also examining how nonverbal communication plays a role in your chosen career path.

Students applying for this capstone should have an interest in nonverbal communication and a willingness to put oneself in awkward situations for the sake of research. By the end of this course, students will find themselves overanalyzing both their own nonverbal behavior and that of their friends and family (but in a good way!). They will develop a strong understanding of the effects nonverbal aspects can have on the communication process, and be able to explain these effects using primary theories and literature in the field. They will design and conduct research in nonverbal communication, resulting in a portfolio-quality project or a paper of publishable or conference-presentation quality.

COMM 481 Overview
Students will have the option to complete COMM 481 in either Maymester or Fall 2019, depending on their graduation plans and the nature of the projects they design in COMM 480.
Investigating Communication and Culture (Dr. Celeste Lacroix)
Spring 2019 Class meets: Wednesdays 4:00-6:45pm

Do you love to write? To express yourself creatively through words and images? Are you interested in how people interact within cultural groups or are you intrigued by forms of cultural expression? If so, you will find your niche in this capstone!!

COMM 480 Overview:
All students will begin their capstone experience with COMM 480 in spring semester face-to-face on campus. This course will prepare students for engaging in ethnographic research and work on improving their descriptive and narrative writing skills. In COMM 480, we will prepare to become culture learners by studying ethnographic methods of data collection. In preparation for COMM 481, we will also learn about cultural and communicative differences. As the semester progresses, we will design research projects, preparing to collect qualitative data, primarily through ethnographic and survey methods.

Students will then participate in one of two options for COMM 481.

COMM 481 Summer I Online Overview:
During Summer I in COMM 481, students will complete the second half of the capstone online through OAKS. The COMM 481 experience will focus on collecting qualitative data, primarily through ethnographic and survey methods. Data collection will take place in fieldsites of students’ choosing – these need not be in Charleston. You will then produce a paper reporting the results of your research.

OR

COMM 481 Fall Study Abroad Capstone Program Overview:
At the start of Fall semester in COMM 481, we will depart for Trujillo, Spain for the semester!! Students in the Capstone also will be registered for a full semester load of courses in Spain (choosing a total of 12 - 15 hours from a list of COMM, Political Science, Psychology, and SPAN courses). In addition to COMM 481, participants in this program will choose from COMM 410 and/or COMM 315.

Students who choose this capstone are recommended to have some Spanish language skill, though this is not required. In Trujillo, students will be immersed in Spanish culture through living with Spanish families, and through studying Spanish culture and communicative practices with Dr. Lacroix, who has co-directed study abroad programs in Trujillo ten times prior to Fall 2019. To get a glimpse of Trujillo, check out this photo essay from one of my previous programs on You Tube: Trujillo Photo Essay.

While abroad we will immerse ourselves in the culture in an engaged and conscientious way. During the semester we will take field trips, participate in guided experiential learning activities, as well as write journals to reflect on what we are learning about both the culture and ourselves. Before we return, students will analyze the data collected and complete research papers reporting our findings.
Other Important Information about the “Destination Spain” Capstone:

Cost: In addition to fall tuition, there is a program fee of approximately $6700, which includes room and board, airfare to/from Spain, ground transportation to/from Trujillo, and all field trips.

Worried about affording this trip?
- This semester study abroad program is affordable for many students. Because this is a CofC faculty-led trip, all financial aid you are awarded for Fall 2019 applies to tuition and the program fee. Since the program fee is virtually equivalent to what some students spend on room and board at the College, the cost for many students, is not much more than they spend on rent and food over the course of a typical semester.
- Scholarships of up to $2,000 from the Center for International Education are available to degree-seeking CofC students who study abroad for academic credit. Eligibility is based on demonstrated financial need and academic merit. For more information on the Center for International Education scholarship as well as additional scholarships for study abroad, please visit: http://international.cofc.edu/study-abroad/scholarships.php.

Courses Offered:
In addition to COMM 481 – Capstone in Communication, students will enroll in 3 – 4 additional courses (for a total of 12 to 15 credit hours).

- COMM 410 – Analysis of Communication Practice (4 credits).
- One additional COMM course at the 300 level – to be determined, but likely COMM 315 or 336 *** (COMM 315 and 336 can be taken twice – the second time, hours go to general electives).
- Two 300 level Psychology classes taught by Dr. Jen Wright
- Two 300 level Political Science classes taught by Dr. Kendra Stewart
- SPAN 328 – Spanish Language Study Abroad (3 credits).

Some Program Highlights:
*** Living in an historic Spanish town, known for its palaces and castle
*** Excursions to Madrid and other popular locales in southern (Sevilla, Granada) Spain
*** Classes taught by CofC professors and native Spaniards
*** Home stay with families to truly experience daily life as Spaniards do
*** Opportunities for travel in Spain and Europe during an extended Fall Break and long weekends (classes are only M – TH!)

If you are interested in this unique Capstone experience, you should contact Dr. Lacroix as soon as possible at lacroixc@cofc.edu.