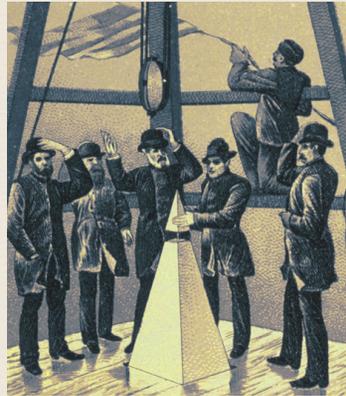


# HOW TO ENROLL IN CAPSTONE



This challenging course for highly-motivated seniors enables you to develop advanced research, writing, and presentation skills, while grappling with essential questions that span disciplines.

It will pull together and further refine skills that you have developed and advanced in all courses during your entire BLS education and culminate in your creation of a truly interdisciplinary investigation: a Capstone project that you will conceive and execute, with the support of faculty mentors.

The 2014-2015 year features an inaugural single pilot section of the course; in future years, more sections of Capstone classes will be created.

The 2014-2015 Capstone class will consist of a maximum of 24 students. Insofar as it is an inaugural pilot class, we seek a wide variety of students with an array of academic and extracurricular interests and backgrounds. You will need to submit an online application for the class—go to <http://goo.gl/PSmbph> -- and complete this before the date your course selection sheet is due: **by no later than Friday, March 7.**

If you wish to take Capstone, be sure to indicate it as one of your six courses on that final course selection sheet, but be sure that you indicate backups in case the class is over-enrolled.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

contact

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and/or

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## THE CAPSTONE PROJECT Advanced Independent Research and Presentation Seminar



In 2014-2015, there will be a **new** course offering for BLS seniors. We're piloting a Capstone project, a course/senior project that is already a fixture at many colleges and high schools but is a **first** for BLS.

## WHAT WILL THE CAPSTONE COURSE LOOK LIKE IN 2014-2015?

During terms 1 and 2, you will be immersed in inquiry-based, self-driven, authentic learning while researching, collecting, analyzing, evaluating and presenting information from varied sources, all focused around a central topic. This year's topic will focus on food and issues surrounding it, a topic we will examine as a class. But the Capstone projects will likely have nothing to do with the topic of food; the food theme enables you to acquire skills as a class, all of which will be useful to your Capstone project.

During terms 1 and 2, you will develop and receive feedback on a central question, a research focus, and a proposal for your final Capstone projects.

The class culminates in the student-designed and faculty-mentored interdisciplinary Capstone projects in terms 3 and 4.

Your Capstone project could take multiple forms—examples might include building a vehicle, writing (and performing?) a play, creating a significant work of art, producing a documentary film, conducting and documenting a lab investigation, inventing a manual or plan for community action, or writing an in-depth research paper on something that fascinates you. **Come up with an idea and if it seems reasonable and sufficiently challenging, it will be supported.**



## FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING CAPSTONE

### **Will this be an "extra" course in my senior year?**

This will be ONE of your six major courses, but it is an elective—which means you have to choose it after you have enrolled in all the courses you need to take to graduate. It is also multidisciplinary, which means it is located in no department and does not affect your maximum of two courses in any one academic department.

### **Will it involve considerable work?**

Absolutely. The scope of the work will be ambitious, but **YOU** will be defining the topic based on what interests you and **YOU** will propose the nature of the project. You will get plenty of support—from an advisor and mentors—but you will be taking on an ambitious project that **YOU**, above all, are passionate about.

### **Will I have to do an extended, lengthy single senior English research paper in addition to a Capstone project?**

No. In 2014-2015, students will be asked to complete four shorter papers in their English 12 or AP English Literature courses; the yearlong English research project will not be required next year. For more information on this, see Ms. Moran in the English department.

### **Will this look good on my transcript as I apply for college?**

Yes! Many colleges already have Capstone projects and see them as the optimal way to summarize all that you have achieved in high school; that's why the best high schools are adopting these prestigious courses. This is an advanced research course (and will be listed that way on your transcript). It will allow you to create something you are passionate about and lay the foundation for areas you may pursue in college. Imagine how you will be able to talk about this in college essays and interviews.

### **Will I be able to work with individuals outside the school who can help with/be useful to this project?**

Yes!

### **How is it graded?**

This class will receive grades much like any other BLS class. In terms 1 & 2, the work we do as a class will be graded; in terms 3 & 4, the blogging and steps in the Capstone project will be assessed and the principal grades will be on the final Capstone project, portfolio, and your public presentation on the project.