

YALE-NUS PROGRAMME IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

YID4101: Environmental Studies Capstone Project 2016-2017, Semester One (August – November 2016)

Facilitator: Michael Maniates (with Angel Hsu, Marvin Montefrio, and Matthew Schneider-Mayerson)

Wednesday, 1300 – 1430, CR17

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Consultation hours: Tuesdays 9:00 – 11 a.m., Fridays 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., and by appointment. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/maniateshours> to schedule a time.

YID 4101 is a two-headed beast that seeks to facilitate the successful completion of your capstone project. One head: the entire capstone group (14 of you) will meet periodically during our established Wednesday meeting time to review general matters of importance to your project. Another head: You will meet regularly (weekly in the weeks leading up to the successful defense of your project proposal, and two or three times a month for the remainder of the semester) in smaller groups with your primary advisor/first reader to complete assignments, workshop draft material, and collaborate on other activities meant to drive you forward on your work. This module, which carries 10-MC of credit, is a two-semester course open only to fourth-year students in environmental studies.

Learning Objectives

The primary objective of this module is to provide structure and support for your successful completion of the capstone project. You should leave this course with improved research and writing skills, greater expertise around a topic of your choice that centrally connects to or extends your area of specialization, and a tangible research or applied product that you can proudly share with prospective employers or graduate programs. Although this module is meant to lead to the successful completion of your capstone, the ultimate responsibility for success rests with you, the student. One critical learning outcome of this module, therefore, is your demonstrated capacity to work independently toward the completion of a significant project that is conceptually and theoretically informed, even if it is a creative work.

Assessment

Assessment of your project differs slightly from that described on page 16 of *Capstone Project: Guidelines and Regulations AY 2016/2017 (December 2015)*, which is available at the EStudies capstone-resource website at <http://estudiesresources.courses.yale-nus.edu.sg/>

Quality of your research proposal.....	10%
Quality of participation in your group seminar.....	15%
Quality of required written submissions at the end of semesters one and two.....	60%
Oral defense of your final project and any required public presentation.....	15%

Capstone advisors will provide feedback on work you submit on 8 September and 7 November 2016 (see below), but no formal grade will be issued at the end of semester one. Instead, all students making satisfactory progress will receive an “IP” grade at the end of semester one. Final grades will be determined and awarded at the end of semester two.

Capstone Groups and Second Readers

First Reader/Primary Advisor	Second Reader
Professor Hsu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Christina HO ○ Maria IVANENKO ○ XIE Yihao 	Professor Hsu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Matthew BOLDEN ○ Willie KHOO ○ Zachary MAHON ○ Valerie PANG
Professor Maniates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Matthew BOLDEN ○ Jolanda NAVA ○ Valerie PANG ○ Sanjana TADEPALLI 	Professor Maniates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CHUA Wan Ping ○ HO Christina ○ TOH Hui Ran ○ XIE Yihao
Professor Montefrio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CHAU Wan Ping ○ Sheryl FOO ○ May TAY ○ TOH Hui Ran 	Professor Montefrio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kei FRANKLIN ○ Jolanda NAVA ○ Maria IVANENKO
Professor Schneider-Mayerson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kei FRANKLIN ○ Willie KHOO ○ Zachary MAHON 	Professor Schneider-Mayerson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sheryl FOO ○ May TAY ○ Sanjana TADEPALLI

Tasks and Deadlines

18 August 2016 (11:59 p.m.): Successful submission of your “Capstone Proposal Form” to Michael Maniates. The form, available at <http://estudiesresources.courses.yale-nus.edu.sg/>, must be signed by your capstone advisor prior to submission. Approval by your second reader is not required. Your prose must be pointed, clear, and crisp. A 10% penalty on your research proposal grade applies for to all late submissions. Up to an additional 10% penalty applies for incomplete or sloppily completed forms.

8 September 2016 (11:59 p.m.): Successful upload to Canvas of a full and complete “Capstone Research Proposal.” The proposal must include all of the elements described elsewhere in this syllabus. A 10% penalty per 24-hour period of tardiness applies to all late submissions. We expect that you will have an opportunity to discuss your research proposal and workshop a draft of it in your small-group seminar meetings.

Week of 12 September 2016: An oral defense of your proposal with your primary and secondary readers. An oral “defense” is perhaps too stark a description, but you will meet with your readers during this week before break for a searching conversation about the quality of the proposal and the appropriateness and “do-ability” of your research plan. We expect this conversation to take approximately 30 minutes.

7 November 2016 (11:59 p.m.): Major submission of work product (complete and full drafts of your introduction and one chapter, or another body of work as determined by our capstone advisor) plus a detailed outline of work to be completed between mid-November and the end of March 2017. Submit materials to Canvas. Late submissions result in a **one-third grade deduction** (e.g. from an A minus to a B+) **on your overall capstone project grade** per 24 hours of tardiness.

3 March 2017 (11:59 p.m.): Complete draft due via Canvas. We require a full and complete draft of your work, which will be reviewed by your primary capstone supervisor and returned with comments during the following week. Late submissions result in a **one-third grade deduction** (e.g. from B plus to a B) **on your overall capstone project grade** per 24 hours of tardiness.

31 March 2017 (11:59 p.m.): Finished product submitted to Canvas. Submit your final project, conforming to programme submission guidelines (to be provided). This is a College deadline, and the College has made no provision for late submissions. If programmes are allowed to levy a grade penalty for tardiness (rather than impose an outright failing grade), we will impose a **one-half grade deduction** (e.g. from B plus to a B minus) **on your overall capstone project grade** per 24 hours of tardiness.

10 – 14 April (Week 13) and 24 April – 5 May (Final Exam Week One): Oral defense of research project, and a presentation of your research results to ENVST sophomores and juniors. The oral defense, of perhaps 45 minutes or so, will occur with your first and second reader. The presentation will occur together with all other majors in your cohort and will be open to ENVST sophomores and juniors, and other members of our community. It is expected that most oral defenses will occur during week one of final-exam week. A presentation of all projects is tentatively scheduled for the end of final exam week one.

Workload

Successful students will devote an average of 10 hours/week to this module, including time spent preparing for weekly capstone seminar meetings and periodic all-cohort meetings on Wednesdays from 1300 – 1430. Many students may need to devote more than 10 hours/week, especially during critical periods of research and writing. Speak with your capstone supervisor, or with HoS Michael Maniates, if you are spending a great deal more time than 10 hours/week (on average) on this course. Working smarter, not harder, will be central to your success in this module.

Research Proposal

A successful research proposal will be well organized and clearly written. It will be the product of multiple drafts. All acceptable research proposals will have the following elements:

- A one-paragraph statement of your central question
- A description of the argument, debate, or conversation within which your capstone research is situated. You are [joining a scholarly conversation](#) with your work. What is that conversation,

and what are the key articles, books, essays and other elements of ‘the literature’ that define this scholarly conversation? (You may think of this as a focused literature review.)

- A description/justification of the analytic methods (i.e. case study, historical, quantitative, etc.) that will move your capstone project from simple description to description *and* analysis.
- A bibliography of all works cited in the proposal
- An annotated bibliography of **at least ten scholarly sources**, representing a suitable mix (for your project) of research elements such as books, journal articles, conference papers, and grey literature (e.g. government and NGO white papers, technical reports, and working papers).
- A timeline of work, with self-imposed deadlines, for the remainder of the semester

Core Texts/Critical Readings

There are no required texts for our Wednesday afternoon meetings. Your capstone advisor may require readings as part of your weekly meetings. The environmental-studies research resource website at <http://estudiesresources.courses.yale-nus.edu.sg/> archives useful research materials, and lists several blogs that may be of interest. Contribute to this site by sending additional materials or blog suggestions to Michael Maniates. Also, as noted below, “*They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*” could be useful to many of you.

Grading Philosophy

We view “A” work as truly excellent, “B” work as very good, and “C” work as meeting the basic requirements of the course.

Academic Integrity

This would be an unfortunate moment for you to run afoul of our shared understandings of academic integrity. Please see the Yale-NUS “avoiding plagiarism” website at <http://library.yale-nus.edu.sg/plagiarism/>. All capstone students are required to review the Cornell University Plagiarism Tutorial on this page. Attend to this task at your earliest opportunity and raise inevitable questions about these materials in our capstone seminar. You should also review <https://studentlife.yale-nus.edu.sg/policies/academic-integrity/>.

Instances of lapses in academic integrity are easily found, including [this recent embarrassment](#) at the Republican National Convention in the United States. But other, more subtle mistakes, often associated with sloppy paraphrasing, are equally common. Be especially diligent in your notetaking practice (consider using Zotero or another citation management to help you) and work closely with the library staff and your capstone advisor if you have doubts about your ability to write in your own voice. Also consider reading, thoroughly, “*They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*”, which is recommended by a number of environmental studies professors.

It is difficult to overstate in this document the difficulties that we will all experience if you should violate, either intentionally or inadvertently, our norms of academic integrity. Make every effort to err on the side of full citation of the work of others, and organizing your note-taking and draft-writing work to insure that you are composing prose that revolves around your own voice rather than the voices of others.

Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	10 August	Getting oriented: Profs. Maniates, Hsu, Montefrio and Schneider-Mayerson
2	17 August	Tips for Writing a Successful Research Proposal/Doing Your Research (aka 'finding the Easter Eggs') I: Maniates and others
3	24 August	Doing Your Research (aka 'finding the Easter Eggs') II
4	31 August	Tips and Tricks for Research and Writing: Prof. Tim Kasser, Knox College
5	7 September	No meeting: Proposals due via Canvas 8 Sept., 11:59 p.m.
6	14 September	<i>Research proposal defenses (some scheduled during this time period)</i>
recess	21 September	RECESS
7	28 September	Qualitative interview methods -- Montefrio (optional)
8	5 October	Participant Observation – Montefrio (optional)
9	12 October	
10	19 October	
11	26 October	
12	2 November	
13	9 November	Group meeting: What's next? – Maniates, Hsu, Montefrio and Schneider-Mayerson