M.A. in English Capstone Project Requirements

By the end of their final semester, students will submit a capstone project that they work on in consultation with at least one faculty member. Students may pursue a range of possible projects for their capstone, including writing a traditional scholarly thesis (8,000-10,000 words), creating a teaching portfolio and demonstration, developing a translation and scholarly introduction to the translated literary work, producing a film, album, website or other digital humanities or project oriented toward social justice. In addition to working with a faculty advisor in English, students are welcome to collaborate with other members of the Rutgers Newark graduate faculty, such as those in the Departments of Arts, Culture, and Media, Spanish and Portuguese, Africana Studies, American Studies, Urban Education, Political Science, History or other related fields, especially if they pursue a creative, translation studies, or interdisciplinary capstone project. Regardless of the medium of a student’s capstone project, all projects must:

- Make clear how the project responds to existing scholarly conversations and how the project contributes new knowledge or advances that conversation in your chosen field. In doing so, students must demonstrate their familiarity with the scholarly debates and seminal texts relevant to their project and explain the importance of the project’s scholarly/artistic/pedagogical intervention.

- Convey a clear and convincing methodology and theoretical framework. Projects must explain the reasoning for the selection of primary and secondary sources, as well as the rationale for the selected theoretical and interpretive methodology.

- Develop a convincing argument supported by scholarship, reasoning, and primary sources.

- Feature a scholarly bibliography.

- *Students who pursue a creative project for their capstone must also write a critical introduction to that project where they demonstrate the above requirements and explain the creative project’s relevance to scholarly debates and criticism.

Students should begin thinking about possible capstone projects and which faculty they would like to work with during their first year in the program. No later than their penultimate semester in the program, students should select and confirm with the MA Director the Capstone Project abstract and name of the faculty advisor with whom they will be working. Together, the faculty advisor and the student will generate a rubric for the capstone project, detailing the requirements and grading process for the project, which must be submitted and graded by the penultimate month of the final semester.