

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FULLERTON
DEPARTMENT OF LIBERAL STUDIES
INTERDISCIPLINARY THEMATIC PLAN
SENIOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

All Interdisciplinary Thematic Plan (ITP) students are required to complete a senior research project. The research project serves as a capstone experience in which students carry out research relevant to a specific aspect of their theme. Students may choose either of two options to satisfy this requirement.

Option A: LBST 482

Students who follow Option A enroll in LBST 482, Interdisciplinary Thematic Plan (ITP) Research Seminar, usually during the last semester prior to graduation. LBST 482 instructors guide students through the process of developing a research proposal, an annotated bibliography, and a research paper on an interdisciplinary topic.

Option B: 499 (Independent Study)

Students who follow Option B work with a full time instructor by enrolling in Independent Study (499) in that instructor's department. The Senior Project requires completion of 3 units of Independent Study distributed over the last two semesters prior to graduation. In the next to the last semester, one unit of 499 is devoted to the development of a project proposal and an annotated bibliography. In order to register for 499, students need the prior approval of a full time faculty member and a registration permit from that faculty member's department. Satisfactory completion of this one unit of 499 requires the approval of a senior project proposal. The proposal must be approved and signed by both the full time faculty member who has agreed to act as project supervisor and a Liberal Studies advisor. The proposal must include a clear description of the topic, a well-defined research plan, an annotated bibliography, and a specific schedule for the completion of the project, including realistic due dates for drafts or other indications of progress. In the last semester prior to graduation the project should be completed through registration for two final units of 499. If unusual circumstances warrant, a student may take all three units of 499 in a single semester with the joint approval of the project supervisor and a Liberal Studies advisor.

Students who follow Option B must attend at least one Senior Project Workshop prior to or during their enrollment in their first unit of 499. Senior Project Workshops include presentations by ITP students currently completing their projects and a faculty-taught module on techniques and procedures for the successful completion of a research paper or similar project. The workshops provide opportunities for ITP students to learn and gain support from peers and faculty. All students who follow Option B must present a short work-in-progress report on their Senior Project at a Senior Project Workshop during their final fall or spring semester prior to graduation.