

## Signature Assignment for ICS Program Learning Outcome #5

**Course:** ICS 499 Senior Capstone  
**Instructor:** Bro. Brian McLauchlin, SVD  
**Assignment Title:** Capstone Paper

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**Outcome to be assessed:** ICS/BA/5- Demonstrate proficiency in the basic methods of social research and communicating analysis of research findings.

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**Assignment Description:** The capstone paper can be on any topic the student chooses to research and must be approved by the ICS 499 instructor. Ideally, the initial stages of this research were already started in Methods of Social Research (SOC 461). In the event the student wishes to begin a new research project not covered in ICS 499, the student must have the topic approved by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

The capstone paper should be between 20-30 pages in length. The paper must conform to APA standards, including in-text citations and a list of references at the end of the paper. In accord with APA standards, the student should include a brief abstract at the beginning of the paper. As a general guideline, for a 20-page paper, the student should use at least 20 scholarly resources in order to research his/her topic adequately.

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**Evaluation criteria:** The paper will be evaluated based on the following criteria. See the attached rubrics for further details. For each of these Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), the student needs to a level of ability to:

- Identify a solid social scientific theory (or set of theories) that will provide a lens for exploring the complexities of a research topic.
  - Analyze the scholarly research on the research topic.
  - Communicate research findings effectively through semi-professional writing.
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**Formatting:** APA style only.  
Include an abstract on a separate page.  
Use in-text citations.  
A list of references must be included at the end of the paper.

For a 20-page paper, please use at least 20 references etc.

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**Possible topics:**

The topic must be chosen by the student and approved by the instructor.