BIS Secondary Research Capstone Project

Description:

This capstone project blends academic study with secondary research. Typically, for secondary research, the BIS student works under the guidance and tutelage of a professor and library bibliographers and makes in-depth use of existing literature bases to provide an in-depth summary related to a problem, issue, or phenomenon.

Capstone Project Requirements:

1. The purpose of your capstone project is to demonstrate what you have learned through secondary research of an issue or phenomenon linked to your three academic disciplines.
2. The nature of your problem, issue, or phenomenon and proposed methodology must be described in your *Capstone Proposal* submitted at the conclusion of BIS 3800. Your Capstone Project committee will approve or make suggestions for your work at that time.
3. You must have a specific purpose for your research and describe the research methodology used in your project.
4. Your final project must contain a *literature review* that integrates and synthesizes scholarly work that addresses your phenomenon from all three academic disciplines.
5. Your final project must contain *findings* and *recommendations* sections.

The Process:

1. You will be expected to complete the following work **before you start** your secondary research:

    a. Conceptualize and design a research study under the direction of a primary professor.
    b. In conjunction with your primary professor, detail the *nature of the problem* or *phenomenon* to be investigated.
    c. Describe the methods you will use to investigate scholarly literature.
    d. Begin to *review the appropriate literature* related to your problem or phenomenon under investigation with a Stewart Library bibliographer who will assist you in including seminal and important research findings into your paper.

b. As you **implement your project and begin creative work** you will:

    a. Follow the *methodology* you described in your project proposal for investigating scholarly literature.
    b. Organize your *Review of Literature* into subheading and *summarize key findings* at the end of each subsection.
    c. Work with your research professor to determine how to report your main findings and conclusion based upon your secondary research project.

2. For your **Capstone Defense,** prepare your Secondary Research Report containing the following **subheadings:**

   a. A *Nature of the Problem* section where you thoroughly describe the problem, issue, or phenomenon under investigation (3-4 pages).
   b. A *Review of Literature* section that synthesizes and reports current research and/or theory about the problem, issue, or phenomenon under investigation (25-30 pages).
   c. A *Methodology* section where you describe the methods and procedures used in your literature research (1-2 pages).
   d. A *Findings* section where you report key findings and conclusions from your literature review. (2-3 pages).
   e. A *Recommendations* section where you make further recommendations for future research or study (2-3 pages).
   f. The *References* cited in your Nature of the Problem and Literature Review (2-3 pages or more).
   g. *Appendices* (optional) containing any other documentation related to your Secondary Research Report.