Dear Seniors,

The Senior Projects program is already, and will likely continue to be, impacted by COVID-19. There have already been a few internships that have been canceled or postponed. We anticipate continuing with Senior Projects, but we also expect that many of you will have to modify or switch your project. With this in mind, your proctors and the Senior Project directors will work with you to find a good fit. Please reach out to your proctors, Dr. Mike, or Mike Hanselmann for advice and help.

We will be updating the Senior Projects Canvas page with this information as well as online Seminar updates, Independent Project suggestions, and more helpful tips for creating/modifying your Senior Project.

Should we continue online education after spring break, the following changes will be made to the Senior Project Program:

We will lower the time commitment from 30 to 20 hours per week.

You will have the following options available to design a project that will meet the 20 hour per week time commitment.

1. **Internship that meets state social distancing guidelines, with the permission of your parents, or an internship remotely from your home**

   At this time, we will not support internships that involve travel out of the state or country. We will see where things stand in a couple of weeks, but we strongly suggest that if you have an internship that involves travel, or does not meet current social distancing guidelines, that you have a backup plan at the very least. Internships can be part time (10 hours) or full time (20 hours).

2. **Participation in classes that continue to meet after the start of Senior Projects, whether in person or online**

   All classes with the exception of History and English will continue to meet. Classes count toward a time commitment of five hours each. If you choose to stay in four classes, for example, that would meet the time requirement for your Senior Project.

3. **Independent project that you design with the help of your parents and proctor**

   We encourage independent projects that you can complete at home. If you have an internship set up, we encourage you to think of a possible independent project as a likely backup plan. You can find independent project worksheets and applications on Canvas. Independent projects count toward a time commitment of 10-20 hours.

4. **Online seminar offered by faculty**

   Currently we are talking to faculty about providing an expanded selection of online Senior Project seminars. We will try to offer seminars at different times so that students could take
more than one. Be mindful that faculty offering seminars may still have full teaching loads, so we cannot be sure that their meeting patterns will not conflict. We will try as best we can to schedule them in ways that allow students maximum flexibility. Seminars count as a 10-hour per week time commitment. If it works out with your schedule, you could take two seminars to complete your senior project requirement.

Students who are on the experiential education seminars: Ex Ed faculty will be in touch when it’s apparent whether or not the seminar will be able to spend some or any of Senior Project in the field. In hopes of making this a meaningful experience, Ex Ed faculty look forward to working with students to co-create an engaging plan. If there are things in the Ex Ed realm seminar students would like to do (reading adventure and exploration classics, watching films of unique experiences, practicing skills outside on your own), let your Ex Ed faculty trip leaders know.

5. **Combination of the above that adds up to 20 hours per week**

We hope this will not be necessary but want to be prepared in the event that internships become an impossibility. We suggest planning ahead and having a contingency in the event your internship is canceled.

We are here to help. Contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mike and Mike Hanselmann