Capstone Proposal
LIB 480 Premed/Health Studies Capstone Seminar

The major component of the course will be a research project on a topic related to changing life expectancy in the United States or a historical example of when life expectancy has changed. The possibilities of topics that you can pursue are broad, including opioid and other drug overdoses, suicides, alcohol-related deaths, the Flu pandemic, mortality in post-Soviet union Russia, and the impact of the HIV and Crack epidemics, to name just a few. Whichever topic you decided to pursue, you must have a clear thesis about the topic. You can provide evidence for this thesis in a number of ways including a thorough review of the literature about your topic or analysis of data related to your topic.

The first project stage will involve submitting a proposal (worth 15% of your course grade). This should be organized as follows:

Part I.   Your name, course number & semester, and a preliminary title that should follow academic convention, being both engaging and descriptive of the focus of your project (**10 points**)

Part II.   A thesis statement (this will eventually develop into an "abstract"). This should be 1-2 <u>detailed</u> sentences. After reading this sentence / these sentences, the reader should have a sense of both the topic of your paper and what your argument in the paper will be. (**25 points**)

Part III.   A narrative discussion (1-2 pages in length) explaining why you chose this subject, why and how this subject is significant/important in relation to changing life expectancy, the potential audience of your project. (**25 points**)

Part IV.   An outline (1-2 pages) of the sections you plan to include in your final paper. This outline should contain the section titles and 1 to 2 sentences describing what you plan to include in that section (**25 points**)

Part V.   Annotated bibliography including at least 6 high quality sources – each reference should be accompanied by a short description (small paragraph) of its relevance to your project. (**15 points**)