

# INTIMATIONS

## *A Journal of Exploratory Research and Analysis*

The research articles published here reflect Capstone Research efforts sponsored by the University Honors Program in 2012-13. The projects discussed here were conceived from personal academic interests and mentored by faculty who are familiar with the research and scholarship driving these efforts of discovery.

While the stirrings of personal interest are a crucial element in the cultivation of sound research practices, they should not be confused with intimations of sound research. Intimations of sound research emerge only from a special growth in perspective, and the goal of good mentoring is to awaken these intimations and override the restrictive limits of personal interests and their attendant beliefs. We thank our faculty mentors, well over a hundred thus far, who have worked with our Capstone students over the past twelve years to frame and conduct compelling research projects.

In the process of acquiring new perspective in life, we often need to cultivate new attunements, attitudes and convictions. But we also need to see how these orientations sensitize or desensitize us to the blind spots in our understanding. Are there not issues, concerns, opportunities and challenges relevant to our lives that we can only appreciate *from somewhere else*? As we grow more experienced in life, we are fortunate to

discover new points of entry for exploring our surrounding world, but often only by closing off, eclipsing or transforming *other* points of entry to which we have grown accustomed.

To see the world in a new light, to enrich our access to the world, requires attentive listening to intimations of the unexpected. Our capacity to engage issues and concerns otherwise masked from view often demands a special openness and attention to experiences we find strange and challenging. We seldom see the world in a new light without first having the curiosity and willingness to explore surprising, unexpected, easily marginalized phenomena -- nor without learning to discern otherwise hidden facets of our filtered social and personal constructions.

We trust this collection of articles will stir your interest in some timely topics. The goal of these writings is to increase awareness of what is actually at stake, integrate this into the formation of compelling research questions, present findings based on analysis of criticism and exploratory questions, and suggest how these findings might influence more positive developments. These articles reflect efforts to raise *curiosity* to the level of *sound research* with respect to topics and issues we hope will spark interest in the minds of our readers.



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\* \* \* \* \*

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Seniors in the Honors Program are encouraged to tackle complex problems using methods, insights and knowledge drawn from relevant disciplines. Honors Program faculty and capstone research mentors offer critical feedback and guidance along the way. The main objective is for students to explore, gather, and analyze information effectively, and to share their reflections on the implications of what they have discovered. Group discussions help to promote thoughtful questioning and critical analysis. The primary goal is to communicate knowledge, judgments, and original perspective cultivated on the basis of careful inquiry, exploration and analysis.

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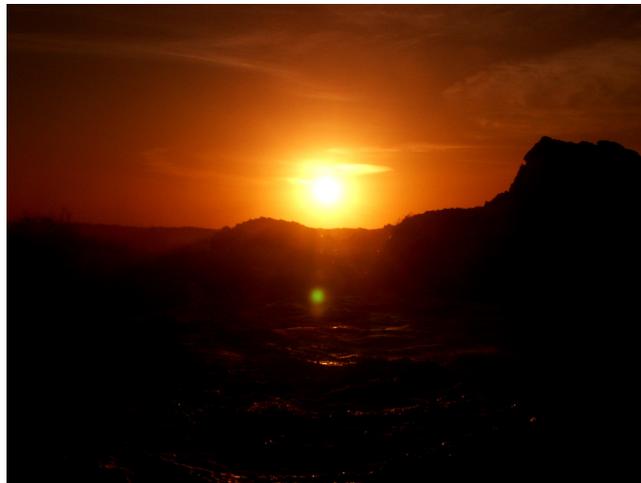
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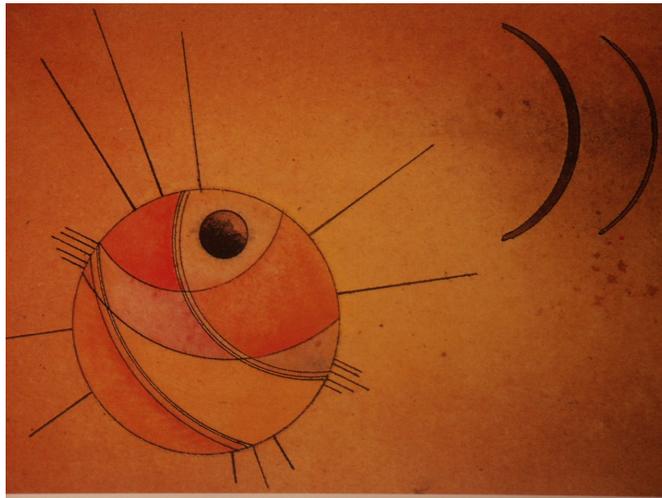
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## HONORS PROGRAM COMMUNITY STATEMENT

The Honors Program at CSU Stanislaus is a community of scholars bound together by vital principles of academic openness, integrity, and respect. Through focused study and practice involving exploration and discovery across a variety of disciplines, the Honors Program upholds these principles of scholarly engagement and provides students with the necessary foundations for further research and inquiry.



Our interdisciplinary curriculum is integral to this work, and is intended to facilitate creative understanding of the irreducible complexities of contemporary life and knowledge. Personal and intellectual honesty and curiosity are essential to this process. So, too, is critical openness to difficult topics and respect for different perspectives, values and disciplines. The Honors Program aims to uphold these virtues in practice, in principle, and in community with one another.