

Capstone: Building a Life  
UNCP/PHIL5550.01  
Stokes 255N, 617-552-3868  
Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00, Thursday 10:30 – 11:30

Fall 2017; Mondays, 3:00 – 5:20  
Prof. David McMenamin

Once upon a time there were three little pigs and the time came for them to leave home and seek their fortunes. Before they left, their mother told them "Whatever you do, do it the best that you can because that's the way to get along in the world."

## **Course Requirements:**

### Participation

! Weekly reading, preparation, participation and attendance are expected.

### Seminar Leadership:

! Starting with week #2, September 15, each week's seminar will be led by two or more of the students working together to prepare and based on the question of how the reading for that week can be understood in relation to the themes of the course, i.e., to the building of our lives.

### Writing Assignments

! A brief

## **Class and Reading Schedule**

### **Part I: Past and Present Stories and Building as a Metaphor for thinking about life**

- ! August 28: Introduction to Capstone and this course
  
- ! September 11: Martin Heidegger, “Memorial Address” (handout) and maybe one other handout to be determined
  
- ! September 18: Christian Norberg-Schulz, \_\_\_\_\_, preface and Chs. 1–3.
  
- ! September 25: Norberg-Schulz, Chapters 7 and 8
  - o! **Written exercise #1 due:** the past that oriented you to Boston College

### **Part II: Building in the present and future: foundations and considerations for building a sturdy structure.**

- ! October 2: Film: “Life as a House”
  - o! Also read handout by Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., “The Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice in American Jesuit Higher Education;”
  - o! From that reading I’d like you to reflect in no less than 3 pages on whether your education at BC has been consistent with the principles Kolvenbach lays out.
  
- ! October 16 : “Cathedral” short story by Raymond Carver
  - o! Two discussions: on the film “Life as a House” and on Carver’s short story. Instead of questions, your short writing for this week is a reflection on the movie and, if possible, how the movie and the short story might be connected.
  
- ! October 23: Lorraine Hansberry,
  
- ! October 30: Tracy Kidder, \_\_\_\_\_ approximately the first half of the book.
  - o! **Written exercise #2 due:** the construction of your life and education at BC.
  
- ! November 6: Tracy Kidder, \_\_\_\_\_ finish the book.

### **Part III: Building for the future**

- ! November 13: Bill Shore, \_\_\_\_\_ (This is a whole book, but an easy read. I will narrow this assignment down some.)
  
- ! November 20: Jonathan Sacks, \_\_\_\_\_
  - o! **Written exercise #3 due**