



# CAPSTONE PROJECT & MENTORSHIP

**APA Program:** Level Up

**Language of instruction:** French

**US semester credits:** 4.0

**Term:** Fall Semester / Spring Semester

## Course Description

Designed as a practical case-study application, this course provides students with the opportunity to complete a design thinking project, using knowledge from their design thinking, cross-cultural communication and corporate social responsibility courses. Students work in teams throughout the semester to complete a company or NGO project focused on a specific real-life challenge. Instead of a final exam or paper, the final assignments consists of putting together a proposal with a solution to the partner organization's challenge. The course follows all the stages of human-centered design methodology, from immersive fieldwork, interviews, and field visits to teamwork to generate and refine innovative solutions. Students work closely with company or NGO stakeholders to design an appropriate solution as well as with APAs Design thinking professor.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Fully understand the design thinking process by applying it to a company or NGO identified problem
- Manage a project through the need assessment/research/design process cycle
- Acquire skills in project management and problem-solving
- Acquire skills in working in an international context and in a diverse team

## Assessment

- Participation and attendance: 30%
  - At least 10 hours of weekly of teamwork on the project. Peer-review of each team-member's participation and involvement in the project will be used to assess student performance, along with Design thinking professor's reports.
- Fieldwork review: 30%
  - 5 page report detailing main findings from the research phase of the project, and identifying clearly the pain points of the challenge and main questions to focus on, and working hypothesis.
- Final group project presenting solution: 40%
  - Includes a presentation in front of the partner organization.