**How Does *Outliers* Explain the Success of Your Chosen Outlier?**

**Capstone Project**

045 Intensive (4)

Summer 2012

This assignment asks you to demonstrate that you have understood Gladwell’s thesis by applying it to some extraordinarily successful person of your choice.

A more general and practical purpose of the assignment is to practice, with our support, some of the academic English/communication skills you will need in your university studies, most importantly:

* Applying theory to analyze specific cases, situations or practical problems
* Doing independent library research
* Presenting your ideas and findings effectively both orally and in writing, and
* Identifying your sources of information properly and effectively.

**Project Steps** (in addition to completing *Outliers*)

1. Library Research Orientation and **Start**: **June 12th\*\*\***

2. **Choose** your “Outlier” and briefly describe in writing his/her extraordinary success/achievement (1 typed page, dble spaced, with references): **due in class June 20th**

3. **Research** the person’s history, background, field, environment and time, **and analyze** how Gladwell’s thesis would explain this person’s achievement: **ongoing**

4. **Present** your findings **orally**: Prepare and practice (in class) a presentation of your research during Week 5. Bring all materials to class on **Wednesday, June** 27. Presentations will be on **Monday, July 2**.

5. **Write** a summary in essay form of your findings and analysis (300-350 words, plus references/bibliography): **due in class July 3rd.**

**\*\*\* Tuesday, June 12th Library Orientation**: Meet at 9:15 in Mugar Library

(771 Comm. Ave, BU Central stop on the T, next to the George Sherman Union), room #503 (take the North elevator, which is next to the circulation desk, to the 5th floor.)