

**GS/HUMA 6500 3.0**

**Advanced Practices and Methodologies in Humanities Research**  
**(FS23 – M 11:30-2:30, RS 501)**

**Course Instructor**

Susan Ingram

Office: 242 Vanier

Office Hour: after class, or email for a mutually possible time

**Course Description**

The course provides PhD students with advanced tools for interdisciplinary Humanities scholarship. As the capstone course in their degree, it ensures that students are well versed in conducting, presenting, and publishing research, with an emphasis on qualitative methods. Students practice, and reflect on, the framing of research topics and fields as well as the design and conducting of courses. They explore what constitutes a field of inquiry in interdisciplinary Humanities research, investigate affordances and limitations of disciplinary traditions and boundaries, and learn to identify approaches to scholarship that are relevant for their selected areas. The course thus supports the preparation of comprehensive exam lists and dissertation proposals while also providing students with an advanced theoretical and methodological apparatus for Humanities research.

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course students can:

- identify and classify interdisciplinary scholarship in terms of fields of inquiry
- draft the contours of a range of fields falling under the umbrella of the Humanities
- present and defend a succinct summation of their own demarcation of a field falling under the umbrella of the Humanities
- assemble reading lists for Humanities fields
- distinguish between teaching materials appropriate for different levels of Humanities courses (foundations, undergraduate, graduate)
- draft syllabi for different levels of Humanities courses (foundations, undergraduate, graduate)
- assess the logical organization of a book-length study

## Evaluation

- class and eClass contributions (50%)
- after a presentation of general and specific fields in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of term, a field description (a written submission of approximately 3,500 words, defining the general field and discussing the important works, debates, and methodologies informing it) and a list of at least 25 works for that field generated from Zotero (Zotero.org) is to be submitted as soon after the presentation as possible but in any event before the last class (30%)
- book review (20%, due 15 Dec)

## Required Texts (available as an e-book in the York Omni Catalogue)

- Umberto Eco, *How to Write a Thesis*
- Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research*, Third Edition
- other texts will be made available via eClass

## Recommended Sites

- <https://humanities.gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/degree-requirements/>
- <https://explorationsofstyle.com>
- <https://theprofessorisin.com>

## Schedule

### 11 Sept (Week 1): introductions

- Melonie Fullick, "What's a PhD For?" (<http://www.universityaffairs.ca/opinion/speculative-diction/whats-a-phd-for-report-raises-more-questions-than-answers/>)
- Markus Reisenleitner, "What's in a Name? Course Design Bootcamps and the Need for a Non-Violent Language of Pedagogy"
- Vanessa Longden, "Book Review: How to Write a Thesis by Umberto Eco"

### 18 Sept (2): fields and field descriptions

- Mireille Rosello and Stephen F. Wolfe, "Introduction," *Border Aesthetics – Concepts and Intersections*
- Eco, Chs 1 & 2 (The Definition and Purpose of the Thesis and Choosing the Topic)
- Post/ present 3 key/ influential texts and 6 keywords

### 25 Sept (3): library resources

- **special guest: Scott McLaren**
- Borges, "The Library of Babel"
- Zotero

### 2 Oct (4): choosing and delimiting a research topic

- Eco, Ch 3 (Conducting Research)

- Post/ present 3 MA theses and PhD dissertations

### **9-13 Oct: READING WEEK**

#### **16 Oct (5): different levels of syllabi (foundation, upper-level, graduate)**

- Tona Hangen, "Extreme Makeover, Syllabus Edition"
- William Germano and Kit Nicholls, *Syllabus: The Remarkable, Unremarkable Document That Changes Everything* <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/york/detail.action?docID=6317952>
- Post/ present lower-level and upper-level syllabi

#### **23 Oct (6): academic organizations/ conferences/ social media presence**

- special guest: Chris Corker

#### **30 Oct (7): getting down to writing**

- Susan Doose, "On Editing Your Own Writing: Some Advice": <https://style.mla.org/editing-your-own-writing/>
- Eric Hayot, "Academic Writing, I Love You. Really, I Do"
- Umberto Eco's Rules for Writing (Well)

#### **6 Nov (8): finding and working with your committee + presentations**

- Eco, Chs 4&5 (The Work Plan and the Index Cards and Writing the Thesis)

#### **13 Nov (9): publishing/ defending your work + presentations**

- Eco, Ch 6 (The Final Draft)

#### **20 Nov (10): applying for positions + presentations**

- CV (<http://theprofessorisin.com/2016/08/19/dr-karens-rules-of-the-academic-cv/>)

#### **27 Nov (11): dissertation proposal + presentations**

- [https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/humanities/wp-content/uploads/sites/323/2013/04/Dissertation\\_Proposal.pdf?x52753](https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/humanities/wp-content/uploads/sites/323/2013/04/Dissertation_Proposal.pdf?x52753)

#### **4 Dec (12): final thoughts**

- book review (20%, due 15 Dec) – review of a recent book in your field