

GS/HUMA 6500 3.0

Advanced Practices and Methodologies in Humanities Research (FS22 – T 11:30-2:30, R S501)

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%)
- presentation of general and specific fields in 2nd half of term, submit field description (a written submission of approximately 3,500 words, defining the comprehensive field, and discussing the important works, debates, and methodologies informing the field) and list of at least 25 works generated from Zotero (Zotero.org) afterwards (30%)
- book review (20%, due 12 Dec)

Required Text

- Umberto Eco, *How to Write a Thesis* (available as an e-book in the York Omni Catalogue), 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

13 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"

20 Sept (2): library resources, special guest: Scott McLaren

- Borges, "The Library of Babel"
- Eco, Ch 3 (Conducting Research)
- Zotero

27 Sept (3): fields and and field descriptions

- Mireille Rosello and Stephen F. Wolfe, "Introduction," *Border Aesthetics – Concepts and Intersections*
- Post/ present 3 texts

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

- Eco, Chs 1 and 2 (The Definition and Purpose of the Thesis and Choosing the Topic)
- Post/ present MA thesis and PhD dissertation

10-14 Oct: READING WEEK

18 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

25 Oct (6): finding and working with your committee + presentations

1 Nov (7): getting down to writing + presentations

- 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”
- Eco, Chs 5 & 6 (Writing the Thesis and The Final Draft)
- Umberto Eco’s Rules for Writing (Well)

8 Nov (8): academic organizations/ conferences/ social media presence + presentations

15 Nov (9): publishing/ defending your work + presentations

22 Nov (10): applying for positions + presentations

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

29 Nov (11): dissertation proposal

- https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/humanities/wp-content/uploads/sites/323/2013/04/Dissertation_Proposal.pdf?x52753
- Eco, Ch 4 (The Work Plan and the Index Cards)

6 Dec (12) final thoughts

- book review (20%, due 12 Dec) – review of a recent book in your field