

CMCT 6005/ CC 8905 3.0

MA RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION & PRACTICE
JOINT YORK-RYERSON GRADUATE PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE

S1 2022

T Th 10:00-13:00 – BLENDED: Ross N814 + Zoom

Course Instructor

Susan Ingram (singram@yorku.ca)

Professor, Dept. of Humanities, York

Office hours via Zoom: please email to arrange a mutually convenient time

Email etiquette: please put CMCT 6005 to start the subject line, and if you haven't received a response in 48 hours, please resend.

Course Description

This seminar course consolidates graduate coursework and bridges the transition to critical independent research. The aim is to facilitate students' specialization around an individual research project, addressing one or more of the three areas of communication and culture (media and culture, politics and policy, and technology in practice). Thus, the major component of the course is development of a research proposal towards a thesis, project, or Master's Research Paper (MRP). The course also assists students in developing professional skills including peer review, presentations, grant-writing, and conference and publication submission.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Bridge the transition from coursework to independent research
- Prepare for the next stages of MA work, namely the supervisory committee and research proposal
- Hone skills in academic presentation and discussion, peer review & research proposal writing
- Develop a draft research proposal for your MRP, thesis, or creative research project

Recommended Reading

- Umberto Eco, *How to Write a Thesis* (eBook available on York's Omni library site)
- <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/showingtheory/>

All course materials will be housed on, and made available via, our eClass site.

Course Format and Policies

Given the uncertainties surrounding the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the course is planned as a blended course with in-person and online components. Students, course instructors and staff all have a joint responsibility to create and maintain a welcoming and inclusive learning environment under what may become challenging circumstances. **If you experience any inappropriate incidents, whether in person or online, that make you feel unsafe or uncomfortable, please contact me immediately.**

The university encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term. An Accessibility Counsellor will help you establish recommended academic accommodations, which will then need to be communicated to your course instructor(s) as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation**, so that your accommodation needs can be discussed and considered within the context of the course.

Finally, please remember that you are not permitted to share private information about your peers or/and instructor without their permission. Also, no aspect of this course's activities should be recorded or distributed without everyone's consent. Your lack of familiarity with any of the Senate Policy and Guidelines does not constitute a defence against their application, so please familiarize yourself with the following **Important Links** (<https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/my/>):

- [Mental Health and Wellness](#)
- [Academic Honesty](#)
- [NEW - Student Guide to Remote Learning \(website\)](#)
- [NEW - Student Guide to Remote Learning \(English PDF\)](#)
- [NEW - Guide d'apprentissage à distance pour les étudiants \(French PDF\)](#)
- [Learning Skills Services](#)
- [The Writing Centre](#)
- [Note Sharing](#)
- [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [Grading Scheme and Feedback](#)
- [Conduct of Examinations Policy and Guideline](#)
- [Manage My Academic Record](#)

Evaluation

- **Forum contributions (30%):**
 - each Thursday after class a Forum task will be sent out. Students are to post responses by the following Monday morning and then come to class Tuesday prepared to discuss and work with the posts.

- **Class/ group contributions (30%)**
– each Tuesday will feature group work.
- **Draft research proposal (40%) – due June 30**
<https://cmct.gradstudies.yorku.ca/files/2013/05/THESIS-Regulations-revised-May-2016.pdf?x41752>
3500 words, 12 point, double spaced, with a bibliography prepared with Zotero (zotero.org; <https://zotero-manual.github.io/>) and submitted in two differently formatted versions of your choice (Chicago, MLA 8, APA, etc.)

The proposal should contain the following elements:

1. Title: usually in two parts with the first catchy and the second, after a colon, reflecting the content
2. Introduction: Brief overview of your research project and the underpinning rationale for the project
3. Objectives: Outline at least two objectives of your research
 - Research context/problem and questions
 - Theoretical perspectives
4. Methods and Sources
 - Brief description of research methods to be employed
 - Description of sources to be employed
 - Discussion of any anticipated problems of access (to research subjects, archives, media content, etc.) and how they will be dealt with
5. Relationship to existing literature or professional practice (i.e. literature review)
 - Identify and briefly discuss the research or professional “stream” to which you wish to contribute
 - Provide a brief overview of the dominant theoretical perspectives/ professional practices in this stream
 - Indicate where your work fits in and/ or where it challenges these perspectives and/ or practices
6. Proposed chapter or section outline (structure of thesis)
7. Proposed timeline for completion of your thesis, MRP or project
8. Select Bibliography (*not included in the 3500-word count*)
 - 1) theoretical works relevant to chosen methodology
 - 2) works bearing on the substance of the topic.

*** Please note that meeting the expectations for this course does not necessarily mean that you have met the expectations of your supervisor or your supervisory committee. Your proposal for this course should be seen as a first draft for your supervisor and your supervisory committee.***

Schedule

1) 10 May: Introductions

- Overview of the course, thesis, project, and MRP program requirements
<https://cmct.gradstudies.yorku.ca/forms-ma/>
<https://cmct.gradstudies.yorku.ca/files/2013/05/THESIS-Regulations-revised-May-2016.pdf?x41752>
- Readings:
 - Markus Reisenleitner, “What's in a Name? Course Design Bootcamps and the Need for a Non-Violent Language of Pedagogy”:
https://eclass.yorku.ca/pluginfile.php/3648817/mod_resource/content/1/Reisenleitner-boot-camp-blog-entry.pdf
 - Melonie Fullick, “What’s a PhD for?”:
<http://www.universityaffairs.ca/opinion/speculative-diction/whats-a-phd-for-report-raises-more-questions-than-answers/>

12 May: Research Ethics and the Ethics Protocol Form

- Guest: Shahab Bayani, ABD, Humanities
- **York:** <https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/thesis-dissertation/research-ethics/#forms>
- **Ryerson:** <https://www.ryerson.ca/research/resources/ethics/human/>

2) 17 May: Ethics

19 May: Library Resources

- Guest: Scott McLaren, Resource Librarian

3) 24 May: Reverse Engineering MA Research

26 May: Academic Conferences

- 7. Jahrestagung der Kulturwissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft (KWG), 25.5.-28.5.2022, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz (7th annual conference of the Cultural Studies Society)

4) 31 May: Literature Review

2 June: Genres and Venues of Academic Knowledge Production

- Guest: Dr Brent Bellamy, Managing Editor, *Imaginations*

5) 7 June: Blind Peer Review

9 June: Presentation Skills and Professionalization

- Guest: Dr Rebecca Halliday

- 6) **14 June: Peer Review**
- Five-Minute Presentations of Research Proposals

16 June: Wrapping Up