

GS/HUMA 6500 3.0

Advanced Practices and Methodologies in Humanities Research (FS 2016-17 – Mon 5.30pm – 8.30pm, RN 814)

Course Instructor

Susan Ingram

Office: 242 Vanier

Office Hour: Monday 4.30–5.30 or by appointment (singram@yorku.ca)

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 a range of fields falling under the umbrella of the Humanities
- 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) with all requisite parts, including learning objectives
- assess the logical organization of a book-length study

Evaluation

- CV assignment (10%, due in week 4 – 3 Oct)
- two syllabi – for a 1st year and graduate course (1st due on 17 Oct – 15%; 2nd due on 14 Nov – 15%)
- presentation and accompanying field description and list (20%, due after the comp experience in the 2nd half of term)
- book review (20%, due in the last class)
- class and Moodle participation (20%)

Required Text

- Umberto Eco, *How to Write a Thesis* (available as an e-book in the York Library Catalogue), other texts will be made available on the Moodle

Recommended Sites

- <https://explorationsofstyle.com>
- <https://theprofessorisin.com>

Schedule

12 Sept (Week 1): introductions

- What's a PhD for? (<http://www.universityaffairs.ca/opinion/speculative-diction/whats-a-phd-for-report-raises-more-questions-than-answers/>)
- Borges, "The Library of Babel"

19 Sept (2): fields and interdisciplinary scholarship

- Bourdieu, "The Field of Cultural Production, or: The Economic World Reversed"
- Clifford, "Traveling Cultures"

26 Sept (3): dissertation planning and field descriptions

- Eco, introductory matter and Ch 1
- post/ present 3 key texts

3 Oct (4): different levels of syllabi (foundation, upper-level, graduate)

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

10 Oct: Thanksgiving – no class

17 Oct (5): choosing the topic, committees + guests

- Eco, Ch 2

- 1st-year syllabus due

24 Oct (6): academic resources and lists + presentations

- Eco, Ch 3

31 Oct (7): dissertation proposals + presentations

- Eco, Ch 4

7 Nov (8): academic organizations/ conferences + presentations

- Eco, Ch 5

14 Nov (9): the 3 academic Rs: research, writing, reading + presentations

- Eric Hayot, "Academic Writing, I Love You. Really, I Do."
- graduate-level syllabus due

21 Nov (10): job applications + presentations

- Eco, Ch 6

28 Nov (11): other business, presentations

- Eco, Conclusions

5 Dec (12) final thoughts

- book review due