

GS/HUMA 6500 3.0

Advanced Practices and Methodologies in Humanities Research (WS 2020 – T 4:00-7:00pm, BSB 203)

Course Instructor

Susan Ingram

Office: 242 Vanier

Office Hour: T 2:30-4:00 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 (not graded, due in week 3 – 21 Jan)
- two syllabi – for a 1st year and graduate course (1st due on 4 Feb; 2nd due on 3 Mar – 25%)
- presentation and accompanying field description and list (25%, due after the comp experience in the 2nd half of term)
- book review (25%, due in the last class)
- class and Moodle participation (25%)

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

7 Jan (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/>)
- Tools of the trade: <https://humanities.gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/degree-requirements/>

14 Jan (2): fields and interdisciplinary scholarship

- Pierre Bourdieu, "The Field of Cultural Production, or: The Economic World Reversed"
- Mireille Rosello and Stephen F. Wolfe, "Introduction," *Border Aesthetics – Concepts and Intersections*, edited by Johan Schimanski and Stephen F. Wolfe
- Tools of the trade: mind mapping

21 Jan (3): dissertation planning and field descriptions

- Eco, introductory matter and Ch 1
- Borges, "The Library of Babel"
- post/ present 3 key texts
- **CV due** (<http://theprofessorisin.com/2016/08/19/dr-karens-rules-of-the-academic-cv/>)

28 Jan (4): different levels of syllabi (foundation, upper-level, graduate)

- post/ present sample syllabi

4 Feb (5): choosing the topic, committees

- Eco, Ch 2
- **1st-year syllabus due**

11 Feb (6): academic resources and lists

- Eco, Ch 3
- Tools of the trade: citation management

17-21 Feb: READING WEEK

25 Feb (7): dissertation proposals + presentations

- Eco, Ch 4
- Tools of the trade: presentation visuals beyond powerpoint

3 Mar (8): academic organizations/ conferences + presentations

- Eco, Ch 5
- **graduate-level syllabus due**

10 Mar (9): the 3 academic Rs: research, writing, reading + presentations

- Eric Hayot, "Academic Writing, I Love You. Really, I Do"
- Joli Jensen, "Lessons on the Craft of Scholarly Reading"

17 Mar (10): job applications + presentations

- Eco, Ch 6
- Tools of the trade: advanced word processing for researchers (footnotes, table of contents, index, style sheets, pdf generation)

24 Mar (11): social media presence + presentations

- Eco, Conclusions

31 Mar (12) final thoughts

- book review due