

**Liberal Arts College**

**LBCL 496: Honours Essay Seminar**

**Fall/Winter 2022 - 2023**

**Monday 4:15 – 5:30**

**Professor Katharine Streip**

Office hours: Wednesday 4:15 – 5:45 and by appointment. You can also see me after class on Monday

E-mail: [kstreip@gmail.com](mailto:kstreip@gmail.com)

This course will help you plan and write a successful honours thesis, developing skills that provide a foundation for all research and writing. You will learn how to familiarize yourself with the literature in your area of interest, develop a focused thesis topic, take useful notes, and then plan and organize an honours thesis through prewriting. You will learn what has been said on your topic and figure out how you will enter the scholarly conversation. By the end of the first semester, you will have a working bibliography, a focus statement/research proposal, and a short draft/detailed plan of your thesis. In the second semester, emphasis will be on research and writing; class time will be devoted to honing your critical skills through reading and commenting on each other's work. Once you have a more complete first draft, we will work on revision at the levels of structure and content. You will then read and polish second drafts. By the end of the course, you will have produced a well-researched, clearly expressed 30-40 page honours thesis.

Please pay close attention to the syllabus for assignments and deadlines. Because the focus of the class is on individual research and writing, much of the work will take place outside the classroom. It is up to you to ensure that you are making progress in your research and that you meet all assigned deadlines. Extensions will only be granted for medical reasons. In accordance with University policy, plagiarism will result in a failing grade.

You are required to meet with or contact your thesis director regularly (at least once a month and hopefully more often) and discuss your work in progress.

A key element of the class involves responding to each other's work: you are expected to do so thoroughly and responsibly. For the same reason seminar attendance is mandatory. It is your responsibility to notify me of anticipated absences and, when appropriate, provide medical notes to document them.

The grade for your thesis is given by your thesis director. The instructor will evaluate your overall work and assign the course grade.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

Focus statement and annotated bibliography (due Nov 7):	5%
Responses to peers' work/class participation:	15%

Seminar presentations:	10%
Short section of thesis (approximately 10 pages) and tentative outline:	10%
First draft (due Feb. 4):	10%
Second draft (due from March 11):	10%
Thesis (due April 13):	40%

All assignments must be typewritten, double-spaced, and formatted to conform to the MLA or Chicago style. Students should keep copies of their work.

For your seminar presentation you will choose a short article or chapter of a book relevant to your thesis, present a critical reading of it, and discuss its relevance to your developing project. You must make your selection available to other students and me at least a week before the presentation; all students are required to read it before the class.

**COURSE SCHEDULE** (subject to change, depending on class size and needs, guest speakers, etc.)

### **Fall Semester**

Mon. Sept. 12 Introductions. What is an LAC honours thesis: specific examples.

Mon. Sept. 19 Research presentation by Professor James Phelan. More examples of LAC honours theses.

Mon. September 26 Research presentation and discussion of reference management software by Natalia Espinel, M.A. Student presentations

Mon. Oct. 3 Election day holiday (meet with your supervisor this week)

Mon. Oct. 10 THANKSGIVING

Mon. Oct. 17 Research presentation by Aeron McHattie, Concordia University Library, on choosing a topic, using databases, search strategies, bibliographic management, strategic reading and notetaking. Student presentations.

Mon. Oct. 24 Instructions for focus statements and annotated bibliography. Student presentations.

Mon. Oct. 31 Research presentation by Aeron McHattie, on evaluating sources, annotated bibliography, building a literature review, how the Concordia library can support you in your research. Student Presentations.

**Focus Statements and bibliographies due Nov. 7. Give copies to your thesis director also.**

Mon. Nov. 7 Research Presentation by Ph.D. candidate Alex Enescu, McGill University, on establishing a writing routine. Student presentations.

Mon. Nov. 14 Research presentation by Professor Didier Morelli, FRQSC Postdoc at Concordia Art History Dept. <https://www.concordia.ca/finearts/art-history/about/scholars.html> Focus Statements.

Mon. Nov. 21 Field trip to McGill Rare Books Room and Special Collections. Talk by Lauren Williams.

Mon. Nov. 28 Focus Statements.

Mon. Dec. 5 Focus Statements

**Short section of thesis and provisional outline due Monday, December 5. Give copies to your thesis supervisor also.**

### **Winter Semester**

Mon. Jan. 9 Roundtable on writing; specific problems will be addressed (to be determined by the group). Section workshop.

Mon. Jan. 16 Section workshop.

Mon. Jan. 23 Section workshop.

Mon. Jan. 30 Section workshop

**1st draft due Feb. 6 (You are responsible for giving copies to your thesis director, your fellow students, and me.)**

Mon. Feb. 6 Section workshop

Mon. Feb. 13 Draft workshop

Mon. Feb. 20 Draft workshop

Mon. Feb. 27      **Mid-term break (no class)**

Mon. March 6      Draft workshop

Mon. March 13      Draft workshop

**2nd draft due March 13.** (You are responsible for giving copies to your thesis director, your fellow students, and me.)

Mon. March 20      Draft workshop

Mon. March 27      Draft workshop

Mon. April 13      Draft workshop

Mon. April 10      Draft workshop

Mon. April 17 **Honours thesis due.** The final version (40 pages maximum) is to be delivered to your thesis director and to me (a hard copy for me, please). No extensions will be granted.