

Monday 17:45-20:15
RR-302

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Office hours: TBA

Course description

This course will help you plan and write a successful honours thesis, as you develop 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 and make yourself at home in it before entering the scholarly conversation yourself. Once you are ready, you will develop a focused thesis topic, take useful notes, then plan and organize an honours thesis through different kinds of prewriting. By the end of the **Fall semester** you will have a working bibliography, a focus statement/research proposal, and a short draft/detailed plan of your thesis. In the **Winter 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.

General requirements:

- **Come to class.** Attendance is mandatory. It is your responsibility to notify me of anticipated absences and, if appropriate, provide medical notes to document them.
- **Pay attention to deadlines. Develop a work schedule early on.** 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 you are making progress and meet all assigned deadlines. If you run into difficulties and/or fall behind, please contact me and your thesis director at once: the sooner we become aware of problems, the better we'll be able to help you. Extensions will only be granted for medical reasons.
- **Meet with your thesis director** regularly to discuss your work in progress.
- **Respond to each other's work thoroughly and responsibly.**

ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES, EVALUATION:

▪ Focus statement and annotated bibliography (due Nov. 6)	5%
▪ Responses to peers' work and class participation	15%
▪ Seminar presentation*	10%
▪ Short section of thesis (c. 10 pages) and tentative outline (due Dec. 4)	10%
▪ First draft (due Feb. 5)	10%
▪ Second draft (due March 11)	10%
▪ Thesis** (due April 15)	40%

Notes:

All assignments must be formatted to conform to MLA or Chicago style. Keep copies of your work!

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

** Thesis. The final version is to be submitted both to the instructor and to your thesis director. The thesis director grades your *thesis*, while the course instructor evaluates your overall work and assigns the final *course* grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE (provisional)

The schedule *will* change, as we adjust it to the participants' number and needs. On a few occasions, we may meet outside our regular schedule, either elsewhere on campus or away from it (but not too far), to accommodate guest speakers' and workshop leaders' schedules. In such cases our regular Monday evening meeting may be cancelled. A final schedule should be available by late September.

FALL

Monday, Sept. 11	Introduction. What is an LAC honours thesis? Specific examples.
Monday, Sept. 18	Interactive reading, note taking, citeable notes, building a literature review. Strategies for getting reading done. Evaluating relevant literature.
Monday, Sept. 25	Research strategies.
Monday, Oct. 2	<i>Seminar presentations.</i> Annotated bibliography. Developing a regular writing routine. Ways to overcome writer's block.
Monday, Oct. 9	THANKSGIVING & MID-TERM BREAK
Monday, Oct. 16	<i>Seminar presentations.</i> How to revise. Editing sentences.
Monday, Oct. 23	<i>Seminar presentations.</i> Constructing a strong argument. Types of evidence.

	Using evidence to support your argument.
Monday, Oct. 30	Types of feedback. Peer review: giving, receiving, and using feedback.
Monday, Nov. 6	Focus statements and bibliographies due. (Be sure to give copies to your thesis director and your classmates!) The dangers of perfection. Fine-tuning your argument, introduction, evidence, structure, and conclusion.
Monday, Nov. 13	<i>Focus Statements.</i>
Monday, Nov. 20	<i>Focus Statements.</i>
Monday, Nov. 27	<i>Focus Statements.</i>
Monday, Dec. 4	Short section of thesis and provisional outline due! (Be sure to give copies to your thesis director and your classmates!)
WINTER	
Monday, Jan. 15	Section workshop.
Monday, Jan. 22	Section workshop.
Monday, Jan. 29	Section workshop.
Monday, Feb. 5	1st draft due! (Be sure to give copies to your thesis director and your classmates!) Section workshop.
Monday, Feb. 12	Draft workshop.
Monday, Feb. 19	Draft workshop.
Monday, Feb. 26	MID-TERM BREAK
Monday, March 4	Draft workshop.
Monday, March 11	2nd draft due! (Be sure to give copies to your thesis director and your classmates!) Draft workshop.
Monday, March 18	Draft workshop.
Monday, March 25	Draft workshop.
Monday, April 1	EASTER MONDAY (no class)
Monday, April 8	Draft workshop.
Monday, April 15	Honours thesis due! (Be sure to give copies to your thesis director and your classmates!)