**Concordia University Term: Fall/Winter 2019-2020**

**Liberal Arts College Tuesdays 11:45-1:00, RR 302**

**LBCL 496**

**Honours Essay Seminar**

**Instructor: Jarrett A. Carty Office: RR 03.01**

**Telephone: 514-848-2424 x8666 Office Hours: T/Th 2:30-4pm**

**E-mail Address:** [**jarrett.carty@gmail.com**](mailto:jarrett.carty@gmail.com) **Th 11:45am-1pm**

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**A pattern of non-attendance can result in a failing grade. Assignments are DUE IN CLASS, IN PRINT. Assignments submitted late (i.e. after the scheduled class) will be penalized one letter-grade per day (i.e., an “A” becomes “A-”), or one half letter-grade if submitted ANY time after class but before the next calendar day. In accordance with College and University regulations, plagiarism is strictly prohibited and can result in serious sanctions. Students should familiarize themselves with the code of rights and responsibilities of the university: http://concordia.ca/vpirsg/documents/policies/BD-3.pdf**

**Course description**: 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. By the end of the **first semester** you will have a working bibliography, a focus statement/ draft introduction, 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, 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 honours thesis.

**General Requirements of all students:**

* **Come to class**—attendance is mandatory. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor of anticipated absences and, when appropriate, provide medical notes to document them.
* **Pay attention to deadlines** and make progress on research and writing
* **Meet with your thesis director** at least twice a month and discuss your work in progress
* **Respond to each other’s work thoroughly and responsibly**

**Evaluation & Term Work**:

* Focus statement and annotated bibliography (due Oct. 29) 5%
* Responses to peers’ work/class participation 15%
* Seminar presentation\* 10%
* Short section (~10 pages) & outline (due Dec. 3) 10%
* First draft (due Feb. 4) 10%
* Second draft (due March 10): 10%
* Thesis\*\* (due April 9): 40%

**Assignment notes:**

All assignments must be typewritten, double-spaced, and formatted to conform to the MLA or Chicago style. Students should keep copies of their 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 other students and me at least a week before the presentation; all students are required to photocopy the text and read it before the class.

\*\* Thesis: The final version (40pp max.) is to be delivered both to the instructor and your thesis director. The thesis director gives the thesis a final grade. The instructor evaluates the student’s overall work and assigns the final course grade.

### Course Schedule

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

**Fall Semester**

* Tues. Sept. 3: Introductions & What is an LAC Honours Thesis?
* Tues. Sept. 10: Interactive reading, note taking, citeable notes, building a literature review. Strategies for getting reading done. Evaluating relevant literature.
* **\*\*Thurs.\*\*** Sept. 19: Guest Lecture
* Tues Sept. 24: Student presentations. Focus statements. How to write a grant application based on your honours thesis.
* Tues. Oct. 1: Student presentations. Annotated bibliography. Developing a regular writing routine. Ways to overcome writer’s block.
* Tues. Oct. 8: Student presentations. How to revise. Editing your sentences.
* Tues. Oct. 15: Student presentations. Constructing a strong argument. Types of evidence. Shaping your evidence around your argument.
* Tues. Oct. 22: Student presentations. Types of feedback. Peer review: giving, getting and using other’s feedback.
* Tues. Oct. 29: **\*\*\*\*Focus Statements and bibliographies due\*\*\*\***. Give copies to your thesis director also**.**
* Tues. Nov. 5: Focus Statements.
* Tues. Nov. 12: Focus Statements. The dangers of perfection. Fine tuning your argument, introduction, evidence, structure and conclusion.
* Tues. Nov. 19: Focus Statements.
* Tues. Nov. 26: Focus Statements.
* Tues. Dec. 3: **\*\*\*\*Short section of thesis and provisional outline due\*\*\*\***. Give copies to your thesis director also.

**Winter Semester**

* Tues. Jan. 7: Roundtable on writing; specific problems will be addressed (to be determined by the group). Section workshop.
* Tues. Jan. 14: Section workshop.
* Tues. Jan. 21: Section workshop.
* Tues. Jan. 28: Section workshop.
* Tues. Feb. 4: Guest speaker. **\*\*\*\*1st Draft Due \*\*\*\* (cc’d to class & director)**
* Tues. Feb. 11: Draft workshop
* Tues. Feb. 18: Draft workshop
* Tues. Feb. 25: **Mid-term break (no class)**
* Tues. March 3: Draft workshop
* Tues. March 10: Draft workshop. **\*\*\*\*2nd Draft Due\*\*\*\* (cc’d to class & dir.)**
* Tues. March 17: Draft workshop
* Tues. March 24: Draft workshop
* Tues. March 31: Draft workshop
* **\*\*Thurs\*\*** April 9: **\*\*\*\*Honours thesis due\*\*\*\***