

IS123: Academic Research In the Humanities and Social Sciences

Module: Senior Core Colloquium
Fall Term 2016 and Spring Term 2017
Instructor: James Harker
Credits: 12 ECTS, 6 U.S. credits
Mondays 15:15-18:30
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Office hours: Mondays 13:00-15:00

Course Description

This seminar offers training in the methods of academic research and a workshop for drafts. Focusing on representative contemporary research in the humanities and the social sciences, it supports students in proceeding with their own individual research projects by focusing on the essential elements of independent scholarly work: the choice of a topic or object of study; the outline of the main components of an article or scholarly paper; finding, gathering, collating and interpreting the sources needed for the project; correct citation, attribution, and bibliographical documentation, and lastly, the effective presentation of the final work in structure and style, as well as peer review and constructive feedback. Including the participation of thesis supervisors and other faculty members, this course meets throughout fall term and in spring term until the submission of the final thesis project.

Requirements

Attendance and Participation

Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. After one absence per semester for any reason (including minor health issues, unavoidable travel, appointments, etc.), the participation grade will be lowered one step (i.e. from A- to B+) per absence.

In accordance with the Student Handbook, a failing grade for the course will be given if absences reach 30% of the course meetings.

Arriving late to class will count as ½ of an absence.

Because this seminar is devoted to offering helpful feedback throughout the stages of the research process, active participation is of central importance. For this reason, participation is weighted more heavily than in typical courses. Participation also includes completing in-class writing assignments.

Presentations

Group Presentation

In groups of 2 to 3, participants will present on a common question, theme, or text that they each think will play a role in their individual theses. A text must be chosen for circulation in advance, and the group is in charge of leading discussion on that text.

First Presentation

Participants will pre-circulate a text or excerpt that they are working with, to be read by the whole group. In class they will present for 15 to 20 minutes, incorporating that text or excerpt.

Second Presentation

The second presentation will be a formal presentation of a pre-circulated work-in-progress. The second presentation must cover substantially new material from the first presentation.

Submission of Drafts

All drafts and class readings must be submitted via Google Drive.

Grade Breakdown

Attendance and Participation	50% per semester
Group Presentation	20% (Fall Semester)
First Presentation	30% (Fall Semester)
Second Presentation	50% (Spring Semester)

Required Texts

Readings are available on Google Drive for the course and as handouts. Student-initiated readings for the group presentations and first presentations will be uploaded to Google Drive.

Course Schedule

Fall Semester

Week 1: August 29	Introduction and Getting Started on Your Project
Week 2: September 5	Framing a Research Question Reading: "Introduction" and Chapter 1, <i>They Say, I Say</i>
Week 3: September 12	Working with Sources: JSTOR, Citation Indexing, and Library Workshop Reading: Chapter 4, <i>They Say, I Say</i>
Week 4: September 19	Faculty Panel
Week 5: September 26	Application Workshop

Week 6: October 3	No Class (Holiday)
Week 7: October 10	Group Presentations
Week 8: October 24	Group Presentations
Week 9: October 31	First Presentation (3)
Week 10: November 7	First Presentation (3)
Week 11: November 14	First Presentation (3)
Week 12: November 21	First Presentation (3)
Week 13: November 28	First Presentation (3)
Week 14: December 5	First Presentation (3)
Reading Week:	10-Page Thesis Excerpt Due to Advisors
Spring Semester	
Week 1: January 30	Project Updates
Week 2: February 6	Thesis Writing Workshop
Week 3: February 13	Thesis Writing Workshop
Week 4: February 20	Second Presentation (3)
Week 5: February 27	Second Presentation (3)
Week 6: March 6	Second Presentation (3)
Week 7: March 13	Second Presentation (3)
Week 8: March 20	Second Presentation (3)
Week 9: March 27	Formatting Workshop and Excerpting for Public Presentation
Week 10: Friday, April 7	Thesis Submission at 15:00