

EURO/FREN/LACS*6000
Research Methods Seminar
School of Languages and Literatures
M.A. Programs
University of Guelph
Fall 2020
Course Coordinator: Clive Thomson

Objectives:

- to provide students in the three MA programs in the School of Languages and Literatures with guidance and a context in which they can identify and define the topic of their Major Research Paper or Thesis.
- in order to achieve this goal, students will be introduced to some of the key areas of research methodology in the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- students will be able to develop a solid understanding of the written and presentational demands required of a graduate student.
- information about some potential careers for graduates of the MA programs will be given.

Pedagogical Format:

The course will include synchronous and asynchronous modalities:

- a one-hour synchronous session per week in which the course director and guest lecturers do presentations on research methodologies, followed by discussion with students.
- a one-hour synchronous “office hour” when students can consult with the course director about their assignments or any questions relating to the course.
- the specific times of synchronous sessions will be established in consultation with students.
- materials in the form of podcasts, videos and other materials will be posted on CourseLink for asynchronous consultation by students.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, successful students will have developed academic and professional skills that can be used in future projects and professional situations, such as:

- writing their Major Research Paper or Thesis, or writing and delivering a conference paper.
- preparing scholarship and grant applications.
- creating research and information management systems where a knowledge of library and archival tools is required.

This is a list of some of the more specific skills that students will be able to develop in the course:

- an ability to identify and develop new questions for research.
- an ability to write a clear and well-argued research paper.
- communicative skills for use in presenting work to classmates and the scholarly community.
- critical thinking skills for use in assessing the work of published scholars and the work of classmates.