

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.

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.