
GMST/SLST 501

Introduction to the Disciplines of Germanic, Slavic and Holocaust Studies



graduate school: it's like looking directly into the bulb of a high-powered flashlight for two years, only more expensive

Goals

This course is an introduction to the research specialties that make up our disciplines: literary and cultural studies, cultural history, film studies and second language acquisition. The learning goals include producing an MA thesis or research project proposal; drafting and crafting a grant proposal; leading and participating in discussions; deepening knowledge of research sources and databases; and preparing a thesis or research project bibliography.

Evaluation

Thesis Bibliography (2 pages) – 20%

- First Draft (the reading “wish list”) Pass/Fail due Mon. October 5

Instructor: Dr. Megan Swift



3 hrs./week

Readings/Assignments posted Mondays

Face-to-face meetings Fridays 11:00-12:30 PST

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Office: Clearihue D249

Office Hours available by appointment

Materials

Readings provided by Instructor on our Brightspace page

<https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/72970>

UVic Grading Scheme

A+ 90-100%

A 85-89%

A- 80-84%

B+ 77-79%

B 73-76%

B- 70-72%

C+ 65-69%

C 60-64%

D 50-59%

F 0-49%

- Final product formatted in Chicago Style due Fri. November 13 – 20%

Grant Proposal (1 page “Program of Study”) – 25%

- First Draft Pass/Fail due Fri. October 23
- Good Working Draft due Fri. October 30 (10%)
- Final Copy due Fri. November 27 (15%)

Thesis Proposal (10-20 pages) – 35%

- Draft of Introduction (3 – 5 pages) due Fri. November 20 (10%)
- Final Copy of entire Proposal due Fri. December 4 (20%)

Leading and Participating in Class Discussions – 10%

Work in Peer Workshops – 10%

Course Calendar

<p>Wed. September 9 is the first day of classes</p> <p>Orientation I – Welcome!</p> <p>11:00 – 12:30 Zoom: meeting each other and the second-year grad students in “person”</p> <p>Read on Brightspace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • our Graduate Handbook • our Syllabus for the course 	<p>Fri. September 11</p> <p>Orientation II</p> <p>11:00 – 12:30 Zoom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting the departmental faculty and instructors • Hearing from the Graduate Student Society • Electing grad reps and departmental reps
<p>Mon. September 14 – Learning Outcomes and Intro to Theory</p> <p>On Mondays, I will have the readings for the week posted on our Brightspace page https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/72970. The expectation is that you will be ready to discuss them on the Friday of the same week, when we meet in person/on Zoom.</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • our learning outcomes for the course • Forum topic: professionalization skills, transferable skills and your career goals – 	<p>Fri. September 18</p> <p>On Fridays, we meet in person or on Zoom from 11:00-12:30 Pacific Standard Time.</p> <p>Zoom Discussion Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of program progression

<p>please post by Thursday night at midnight Pacific Standard Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read on Brightspace: Jonathan Culler chapter “What is Theory?” from <i>Literary Theory, A Very Short Introduction</i> (Oxford UP, 2011) <p>Respond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post about professionalization skills on on-line discussion forum (on Brightspace) by Thursday night <p>Prepare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion questions about Culler chapter. I will be leading the discussion this week but you should be prepared to respond on Friday during our Zoom call to the questions that I have posted on Brightspace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap-Up Discussion of Forum posts • Discussion of Culler chapter “What is Theory?” led by Megan • Schedule for student-led discussions. Leading and participating in discussions is worth 10% of your final grade.
<p>Mon. September 21 – The Thesis Proposal</p> <p>Read on Brightspace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Thesis Proposal Instructions • Examples of Thesis Proposals • Titles of other Thesis projects https://www.uvic.ca/humanities/germanicslavic/graduate/home/master-theses/index.php • Irene L. Clark article “Entering the Conversation: The Thesis Proposal as Genre” • Thesis Proposal Sign-off form <p>Note: your thesis proposal (or project proposal if you are doing a research or artistic project) is due December 4 to me as a class assignment. After that you should submit it to your supervisor to sign off on.</p>	<p>Fri. September 25</p> <p>Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of Clark article about the thesis proposal

<p>Prepare: Discussion questions on Clark article for Friday's Zoom meeting</p>	
<p>Mon. September 28 – Grant Proposals</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructions for MA SSHRC-CGSM grant (for Canadian citizens) https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp or other eligible grant (for US and international students) • Examples of recent successful grant proposals <p>Note: the 2020 deadline for SSHRC proposals is December 1. If you are not applying for SSHRC, identify your deadline so you know how many weeks you have to prepare.</p>	<p>Fri. October 2</p> <p>Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on grant proposals • Adventures in TA-ing: discussion with experienced TAs about what to expect
<p>Mon. October 5 – Library Research</p> <p>Post to the discussion forum on how you do research</p> <p>Create a 1-2 page bibliography “wish list” of sources you have/should/will use for your MA thesis or project. Send to Megan by Friday maswift@uvic.ca.</p> <p>(This is a Pass/Fail assignment). You will keep working on this Bibliography and hand in a final product on November 13. This is worth 20% of your grade.</p> <p>Read: How to lead a discussion in a grad seminar (getting ready for your big day 😊)</p>	<p>Fri. October 9</p> <p>Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop with Bill Blair, Germanic and Slavic Studies librarian, on research databases available to you • Check-in about first student-led discussion next week. If you are leading the discussion, please send me Discussion Questions to post on Brightspace by the Wednesday before the Friday discussion.

<p>Mon. October 12 is Thanksgiving</p> <p>Make sure you take the day off and eat something delicious. That's an order.</p> <p>Tuesday read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan Culler, "What is Literature and Why Does it Matter?" 	<p>Fri. October 16</p> <p>Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on Culler chapter led by Alisha
<p>Mon. October 19 – Grant Proposal Preparation</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint slides on writing the Program of Study (the proposal part of your proposal) Peer Workshop on Grant Proposals Worksheet <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a 1-pg first draft of your Program of Study. I know it doesn't feel ready. I know it's not at the level you want it to be. It's okay, it's just a first draft. Submit draft to Megan by Friday morning. Submission is a Pass/Fail assignment. You will be working on these drafts with a partner in a peer workshop on Friday's Zoom call. 	<p>Fri. October 23</p> <p>Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Workshop, first in pairs, then in group, on first drafts of grant proposals. Participation and work in Peer Workshops is worth 10% of your final grade. Check-in about second student-led discussion next week. Among other things, please make sure you have sent discussion questions to be posted on Brightspace by Wednesday.
<p>Mon. October 26 – Theory and Cultural Studies</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan Culler chapter "Literature and Cultural Studies" <p>Assignment: Incorporate comments and suggestions from workshop into a working draft of your Program of Study/research proposal. Submit by Friday. This assignment is worth 10% of your</p>	<p>Fri. October 30</p> <p>Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on Culler chapter led by Cameron Check in about Discussion panel for next week. Theme: Sea Changes in Cultural Theory. I will

<p>final grade. I am still considering this a draft, not a final product, and will mark it as such.</p>	<p>post the discussion questions, 3 students will lead the discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft of your grant proposal Program of Study/research proposal is due (10%). I will start a Progress Report for each of you and update it with your grades for assignments regularly throughout the semester.
<p>Mon. November 2</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viktor Shklovsky, “Art as Device” (1917) - Rachel • Roland Barthes “The Death of the Author” (1967) - Hanna • Jacques Derrida “...that dangerous supplement » (1967)- Carol <p>Prepare :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion questions 	<p>Fri. November 6</p> <p>Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion panel on three articles led by Rachel, Hanna, Carol • Check-in about sixth student-led discussion next week. Among other things, please make sure you have sent discussion questions to be posted on Brightspace by Wednesday.
<p>Mon. November 9-11 is Reading Break</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Kramsch, “The subjective dimensions of language” 	<p>Fri. November 13</p> <p>Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on Kramsch article led by Michaela • Check-in and discussion on coping skills, life skills, getting through an MA • 2-pg. Bibliography that will go in your Thesis proposal, properly formatted according to Chicago Manual of Style, is due and worth 20% of your final grade.

	Note: CSRS grad fellowship deadline is November 18, 2020.
<p>Mon. November 16 – Film Studies</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barsam and Monahan chapter “Looking at Movies” <p>Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to the discussion forum on the language of film <p>Assignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a 1-2 pg. draft of the Introduction to your Thesis proposal – 15%. • Prepare by re-reading the MA Thesis Proposal Instructions posted in Week 3 • Address the Context, Research Questions and Thesis Statement • Send to Megan by Friday morning. We will be workshopping these drafts in pairs on Friday. 	<p>Fri. November 20</p> <p>Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer workshop on drafts of thesis proposals/research proposals • Working in pairs to give comments and feedback, then with the group to present results • Reminder to make an appointment with your thesis supervisor to discuss your plan for the thesis/research project and get their feedback
<p>Mon. November 23 – Biology, The Body and Culture</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Barker chapter “Biology, the Body and Culture” • Discussion questions posted by Erin for Friday 	<p>Fri. November 27</p> <p>Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on biology, the body, culture, led by Erin • Final drafts of SSHRC/research proposals are due to Megan and worth 15% of your final grade. You should also submit your completed SSHRC proposal through the research portal at least 2 days before the deadline of December 1. The website can and

	will crash on December 1.
<p>Mon. November 30 is our last day</p> <p>Drop-in Zoom call 11:00 – 12:30 PST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use this day to catch up on anything we need to; or to have an optional drop-in session on Thesis Proposals (final copy due Friday and worth 20% of your grade); or to have a well-earned day of rest 	<p>Fri. December 4 is the official last day of the semester but classes between 11:30 and 12:30 are cancelled in honour of the Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final copies of thesis proposals or research proposals are due by 5 pm PST. Approximately one week from today, I will finalize your Progress Reports and final grades and email them to you

Course Policies

Accessibility Statement

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the [Resource Centre for Students with a Disability \(RCSD\)](#) as soon as possible. RCSD staff members are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Concessions and Documentation

Students may ask for an academic concession, such as the rescheduling of a quiz or test or an extension for an assignment, upon providing proper documentation of a personal or medical affliction or of a time conflict. Proper documentation would include a doctor's note or a memo from [Counseling Services](#), or a memo from a coach, employer or faculty member. It must be dated before or close to the time of the missed work or classes.

Withdrawals and Deferrals

Students who miss substantial amounts of class and assignments without documentation will be asked to withdraw, or will receive an 'N' at the end of the semester. Even when the reasons for failing to meet course requirements are valid, it is not academically sound to allow students missing significant amounts of work to continue in the course.

Students are to familiarize themselves with the withdrawal dates in the current academic calendar.

A Note on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

It is expected that students will adhere to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are responsible for the entire content and form of their work. Any action that contravenes the University's ethical standard, including misrepresentation, falsification or deception, undermines the intention and worth of scholarly work and is taken as a serious academic violation. The University policy on Academic Integrity, including Unauthorized Use of an Editor, is clearly laid out in the Graduate Calendar and students are expected to be aware of it and abide by it: https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/grad/index.php#/policy/BJujesM_E?bc=true&bcCurrent=02%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Faculty%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies

Classroom Conduct

Since the quality of the learning environment is paramount, every student has the right to learn and your instructor has the duty to perform his or her teaching duties in a cooperative, distraction-free and effective manner. Activities that could disrupt the learning environment for you and your instructor would include the non-academic use of electronic devices. Students are expected to turn off their cell phones, PDAs and mp3 players during class. The use of laptops is not necessary in the dynamic and participatory environment of a graduate class.

Add/Drop Deadlines

It is the student's responsibility to attend to ADD/DROP dates as published in the Calendar and the Undergraduate Registration Guide and Timetable. You will not be dropped automatically from a class that you do not attend.

Good luck!