



INQUIRY 1SS3
C10: IDENTITY in 2020
INQUIRY IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Course information:

- Jan. 6/20 to April 7/20
- Thursday, 11:30 am – 2:20 pm, LRW 1056
- Instructor: Dr. A. Janzen
- Office: KTH 208
- Office hours: Thursday 2:30 pm. (or by appointment)
- Email: Through A2L

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Course Overview

What is Inquiry?

Inquiry is the process of developing skills to arrive at understandings of a problem, an issue, or a phenomenon, through the process of asking good questions, searching out good evidence, and arriving at well reasoned conclusions. The process of critical inquiry promotes self-directed learning, helping you to develop the skills necessary to acquire and reflect on new knowledge and understanding, and that will be invaluable in your other university courses and your academic, personal, and professional lives.

Course Description:

Inquiry courses are designed to teach students how to learn and how to share academic knowledge. The courses are skill-driven, rather than content-driven, with a *focus on the skills required to perform effectively in university*. These personal, transferable skills and approaches to learning will be useful in other university courses, and beyond. Students will engage in a process to begin to learn how to

formulate good academic questions, gather and interpret scholarly evidence, draw reasoned conclusions, and communicate these conclusions, using as content, topics central to research in the Social Sciences (e.g., social identity, globalization, health, and gender).

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course you will have valuable experience in:

- developing a researchable question and refining it;
- demonstrating the ability to obtain relevant information to answer this question;
- critically evaluating the validity and relevance of academic research;
- communicating a reasoned response to the researchable questions; and
- critically reflecting on your learning process.

Course Format

Information will be presented through lectures, readings, and discussion. Class participation and engagement is an important component of this course (and of active learning). Therefore, it is expected that all students will be 'active' participants in this course. This means attending all classes, being actively involved in class activities and thoughtful discussion, and completing all assignments.

Required Texts:

There are no required texts for this class. However, the following suggested readings will be helpful for assisting with research and writing in this class and/or throughout your university career. They are available in the bookstore for Inquiry students in all sections:

- Hubbuch, S., (2005) *Writing Research Papers Across the Curriculum*. 5th Ed. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth
- Northey, M. & Tepperman, L., Albanese, P. (2015) *Making Sense. A Student's Guide to Research and Writing. Social Sciences*. 6th Ed. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Additional Suggested Readings

Additional material (news stories, videos, websites, etc.), available at no cost, may be posted online throughout the course. Engaging with these materials will be necessary in order to actively participate in the course. Any assigned articles will be available through the McMaster library website, or through links in the content section of Avenue To Learn.

Course Requirements/Assignments

Requirements Overview and Deadlines

Assessment Activity	% of Grade	Due
Online Library Quiz	5%	Jan. 17

Brainstorming Report	10%	Jan. 24
Citation Chain	10%	Feb. 7
Proposal and Annotated Bibliography	15%	Feb. 14
Presentation	10 %	Mar. 19, 26
Capstone Paper	25%	April 2
Skills Portfolio/Participation	25%	Throughout term

Requirement/Assignment Details

Further information regarding assignments will be provided in class and posted on the course A2L site.

Assignment Submission and Grading

Form and Style

Written assignments must be typed and double-spaced. Please single side your assignments and include a front page containing the title, your name, student number, and the date submitted. Number all pages (except title page).

Assignments must be stapled together. Please do NOT use plastic report covers or binders.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss with the course instructor.

Submitting Assignments & Grading

The written assignments in this course will be submitted via the digital Drop-Box function on Avenue to Learn, found under the Assessments tab. Many file types are compatible with the submission system, including Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, PostScript, Adobe Acrobat (.pdf), or Rich Text (.rtf) files. If your word processing program uses a file type not listed here, please contact the instructor to check compatibility.

Privacy Protection

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

- 1) Direct return of materials to students in class;

- 2) Return of materials to students during office hours;
- 3) Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
- 4) Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

Student Responsibilities

- Students are expected to contribute to the creation of a respectful and constructive learning environment. Students should attend class on time and remain for the full duration of the class. Attendance will be taken in each class and becomes part of your participation mark.
- Students are strongly encouraged to their best to keep up with the weekly readings and assignments. While knowledge of the content of the readings will rarely be directly tested or evaluated in the course, the skills and insights that are offered in our readings set a strong foundation for success in university classes and beyond. Keeping on track with the readings and assignments will also make your job easier as you complete your capstone assignment. The habits, insights, and strategies that are discussed will also be enormously helpful in the step-by-step process of building a sophisticated, polished, and successful research paper.
- In the past, student and faculty have found that non-course related use of laptop computers and hand-held electronic devices during class to be distracting and at times disruptive. Consequently, during class students are expected to only use such devices for taking notes and other activities directly related to the lecture or class activity taking place.
- Please check with the instructor before using any audio or video recording devices in the classroom.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the

university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Using another writer's sentences, phrasing, or writing structure without properly indicating your debt by using quotation marks.
- Neglecting to properly cite the source of your ideas.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca for further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, they may not reply.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

The MSAF is an on-line self-reporting tool for undergrad students to report missed academic work. The MSAF gives you the ability to request consideration for missed

work (worth less than 25% of the course weight) due to illness or injury lasting 3 days or less. You must visit the following link to locate the MSAF to report your absence: <https://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>. This form should be filled out as soon as possible after your absence. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately (within 48 hours of submitting the MSAF) in person or by email regarding the nature of the relief that may be possible for the missed work. Whether consideration is given for missed work, and the type of consideration provide, is the decision of the instructor.

Course Weekly Topics and Readings

Date	Topic/Skills	Preparation for Class
Week 1 Jan. 9	Introduction What is Inquiry	
Week 2 Jan. 16	Developing an Inquiry Question	Module 1 Research Questions Searching and Researching
Week 3 Jan. 23	Library Session Time Management	Module 2 Library Search Strategies Unit 1 - Introduction to McMaster Libraries Unit 2 - Choosing Sources Unit 3 - Creating a Search Strategy Unit 4 - Using Library Databases
Week 4 Jan. 30	Evaluating Evidence	Module 2 Library Search Strategies Unit 5 - Finding Journal Articles Unit 6 - Searching for Books Unit 7 - Evaluating Information Unit 8 - Searching the Web Effectively Unit 9 - Evaluating Websites
Week 5 Feb. 6	Citations	Module 3 Citation Searching
Week 6 Feb. 13	Academic Integrity	Module 4 Academic Integrity
Feb. 17-21	Mid-term Recess	
Week 7 Feb. 27	Writing: an Art and a Craft	
Week 8 Mar. 5	Polishing Your Paper	
Week 9 Mar. 12	Preparing for Presentations	

Week 10 Mar. 19	Presentations	
Week 11 Mar. 26	Presentations	
Week 12 Apr. 2	Capstone Paper Due Final Assignment	

Additional Resources

Authenticity/Plagiarism Detection

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to the [academic integrity website](#).

McMaster W2020 (62 days)

Item	Date(s)
Classes begin	Monday, January 6*
Last day for enrolment and course changes (drop/add)	Tuesday, January 14
Mid-term recess	Monday, February 17 to Sunday, February 23
Last day for withdrawing from courses without failure by default	Friday, March 13
Test and Examination Ban (no tests or exams may be held during this period)	Thursday April 2 to Saturday, April 11
Classes end	Tuesday, April 7
Good Friday: No classes or examinations	Friday, April 10
Final examinations	Monday, April 13 to Tuesday, April 28
Deferred examinations	Monday, June 22 to Thursday, June 25