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Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition
Fridays, 11:30am – 2:20pm; LRW 5001
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Office Hour: By appointment (KTH 322)

Global St 709

Designing Global Research: Approaches, Methods, and Techniques

2018-19 (Term 2)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar course aims to provide students an opportunity to learn, to brainstorm, and to discuss about research with scholars and peers in the field of globalization studies.

Complementing *Global St 710: Introduction to Globalization*, it addresses theoretical and methodological issues encountered in related research. Consisting of three sections (see the class schedule), the course will first give an overview of research approaches employed in global studies, allowing students to learn from practical examples from various guest speakers (in the second section), and to integrate the course learning into the practice of research (in the third section). Students' exploration of their own research ideas and plans will be facilitated to the end of preparing them to undertake their own research for their Major Research Papers (MRPs).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To develop a broad understanding of research approaches employed in global studies and of the relationship between theories and research
- To understand the basic steps of research design and gain knowledge about major components – such as the research question, literature, and data – of a research project, and their respective roles in research
- To lay a foundation for students' *further* exploration of the specific research approaches and knowledge pertaining to their own research projects

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Darian-Smith, E., & McCarty, P. C. (2017). *The global turn: Theories, research designs, and methods for global studies*. Oakland, California: University of California Press. (*You can purchase this book from the University Bookstore.
2. You can access *other readings* on **Avenue to Learn** (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>). If you registered for the course, you would be automatically enrolled in the database of

Avenue to Learn. Alternatively, you can access the readings the McMaster University Library system (<http://library.mcmaster.ca/>), and the websites indicated.

3. *Note:* You can also access various research resources (including video tutorials) at the webpage of the McMaster University Library (<https://library.mcmaster.ca/research/how-library-stuff-works>).

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Participation (15%)

Attendance are *mandatory* for this course. Please arrive on time, complete the required readings, and take an active part in the discussion.

2. Annotated bibliography (20%)

This assignment is designed to help students gain practical skills in *preliminary* literature search and evaluation for a proposed research topic, and in using the existing knowledge to refine the research topic or question(s). It comprises **three** components:

- 1) Briefly introduce the topic you are interested in exploring.
- 2) Select *ten scholarly references* (e.g., scholarly journal articles and chapters of refereed or academic books), following each one a *descriptive* and *evaluative* paragraph (about 150 words) that explains how the specific article can contribute to your exploration of the proposed topic. Please pay attention to the existing knowledge on the topic from different perspectives, in different contexts, and at various levels.
- 3) Briefly comment on the scope and diversity of your selected scholarly articles, and explain how all selected articles can **collectively** contribute to your understanding of the proposed topic or refining the proposed research question(s).

Major evaluation criteria: clarity, relevance, and quality of your justifications. Due on **March 1, 2019**.

3. Research methods (20%)

This assignment aims to help you sort out the methods that will be used to collect and analyze information/data for your proposed MRP project. It comprises **two** components. **First**, you will give a 5-minute individual **in-class presentation** scheduled on **March 22, 2019**. The *main purpose* of this presentation is to share your preliminary thoughts about how to choose the most appropriate methods to suit your research objectives and to receive feedback from fellow researchers in this class. **Second**, you will submit a **2-page, single-spaced written assignment** about the methods of your choosing for your proposed study after considering the feedback on your in-class presentation. This written assignment is **due on by 5pm, Monday, March 25**.

*You are required to **consult and cite at least one scholarly article on method(s) of your choosing** to gain more knowledge about the specific method(s) you plan to use for your proposed study. Only the written assignment will be graded.

This assignment **may** be guided by the following questions: what is/are the specific method(s) that you will consider employing for data collection and data analysis of your proposed project; what do you know about the specific methods (*note: please demonstrate your adequate knowledge about the methods of your choosing); why do you think the selected method(s) can well suit your research objectives; and, if applicable, are there any challenges to use the particular methods for your proposed research?

Major evaluation criteria: Relevance; quality of your justifications; coherence and feasibility of research methods (in relation to your research focus and objectives); quality of communication.

4. Literature review (45%)

In this final paper (i.e., **a critical review of the literature**) you are expected to *identify, synthesize and evaluate* the existing knowledge in relation to your proposed research topic. This assignment aims to help situate or contextualize your research project in current knowledge: for example, what is already known about your proposed topic; how is this topic conceptualized or understood; what are the knowledge gaps; and how does your research topic fit into the existing knowledge? You are *encouraged* to bridge this assignment with your earlier annotated bibliography. At least **ten** scholarly articles should be *meaningfully* consulted. The following are *suggested* guidelines and tips:

- Be mindful of the role of literature review in the research process.
- At the beginning of your paper, please provide a brief *introduction* to the research topic to help contextualize your literature review.
- **Literature review is NOT an annotated bibliography. It provides a synthesis of the existing knowledge that is *most relevant* to your proposed research topic or questions(s).**
- Be conscious of, and take into account, the existing knowledge on the topic from different disciplinary, theoretical, and methodological perspectives, in different contexts (e.g., socioeconomic, geopolitical, cultural, and historical), and at various levels (e.g., grand theory vs. empirical research, global vs. local, and macro vs. micro).
- Pay attention to the balance between your *summary* of the literature and your *analysis* of the literature, and between your explanation of *the possible contributions* of the existing knowledge to the proposed project and your *critiques of the knowledge*.
- Explain how your research topic or question(s) will build on, complement, or contrast with the existing work.
- Be mindful of unintentional plagiarism.

The paper should be double-spaced, approximately 15-16 pages (about 4,000 words, excluding References). It is due on Monday, **April 15, 2019**.

Major evaluation criteria: Structure; relevance; critical thinking; diversity and contextualization of perspectives; and quality of communication and presentation (e.g., grammar, clarity, and reference style).

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

Assignments must be submitted on the due date. A **2% reduction** will be applied **each day** (i.e., Monday - Sunday) after the due date. Students who require *accommodation* should communicate with the instructor *in advance*. **Assignments handed in to the instructor through Avenue to Learn** (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>). In addition, please adhere to the following criteria for assignment preparation:

1. All assignments must include a title page with all relevant course information, adhere to the page limits specified, be formatted with 12 pt. font and standard margins, and be stapled;
2. The citations and references in all assignments should use **APA style** or other common citation styles (e.g., MLA or Chicago) used in your discipline. More information about APA style is available through the e-Resources link on the library home page <http://library.mcmaster.ca> and at <http://www.apastyle.org>.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and 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 the student's responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3 at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: a) plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained; b) improper collaboration in group work; or c) copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140, ext. 2865 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES EMAIL 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, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion. *Email Forwarding in MUGSI*: http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/selfservice/student_email.html

POSSIBLE MODIFICATION OF THE COURSE

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any change.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan 11) **Introduction** (no readings)

WEEKS 2-5 OVERVIEW: THEORIES, RESEARCH DESIGNS, AND METHODS

Week 2 (Jan 18) **Inquiry, framing, and imagination**

- Darian-Smith, E., & McCarty, P. C. (2017). Chapters 1, 2, & 3 (pp.1-75)
- *Initial discussion about your possible MRP topics and identification of keywords (, both of which will be used for next session).*

Week 3 (Jan 25) **Research design**

- Darian-Smith, E., & McCarty, P. C. (2017). Chapter 4 (pp.76-128)
- *Research Library Orientation (1-2:20pm)*: Olga Perkovic, Research and Advanced Studies Librarian, Mills Library, Wong e-Classroom, L107. (*Please proceed through the Mills lobby and turn left at the double elevators. The Wong room is located at the end of the hall, on the right side.)

Week 4 (Feb 1) **Methodological considerations**

- Darian-Smith, E., & McCarty, P. C. (2017). Chapters 5 & 6 (pp.129-205)
- *Initial discussion about your research objectives and possible methods you will consider.*

Week 5 (Feb 8) **Research examples**

- Darian-Smith, E., & McCarty, P. C. (2017). Chapter 7 & Conclusion (pp.206-230)

- *Initial discussion about possible components of your proposed research project.*

Week 6 (Feb 15) Research ethics

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2014). Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. **Chapter 1 (pp.5-12)**. Available at : <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/>
- Guillemin, M., & Gillam, L. (2004). Ethics, reflexivity, and “ethically important moments” in research. *Qualitative inquiry*, 10(2), 261-280.
- MREB Application Form: <https://reo.mcmaster.ca/forms>
- Guest speaking (1-2:20pm): Nick Caric, Senior Ethics Advisor, McMaster Research Ethics Board (MREB)

Week 7 (Feb 22) Mid-term recess (no readings)

WEEKS 8-10 GUEST LECTURES: LEARNING FROM RESEARCHERS

Week 8 (Mar 1) A roundtable discussion on MRP research: IGHC graduates

- Beny, Helen. (2017): “Sino-Ethio Relations: Neither Dependency or South-South Cooperation”
- Cui, Amy (2018): “Challenges and Possibilities in Global Pediatric Oncology: An analysis of international collaboration and community participation dedicated towards pediatric cancer care in Guatemala”
- Gorial, Moreen. (2018): “Reaching for Recognition: A Forgotten People - Recognizing the Iraqi Christian Genocide”
- **Your annotated bibliography is due.**

Week 9 (Mar 8) Guest speaker: Dave Heidebrecht, Manager, Office of Community Engagement, McMaster University

- Heidebrecht, D. (2010). “A Sacred Place: Capturing the Story of the Sacred Headwaters Social Movement” (MRP).
- Schulman, S. (2013). “A lab of labs”. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*. Available at: https://ssir.org/articles/entry/a_lab_of_labs
- Minkler, M. (2005). Community-based research partnerships: challenges and opportunities. *Journal of Urban Health*, 82(2), ii3-ii12.

Week 10 (Mar 15) **Guest speaker:** Professor Sara Bannerman, Canadian Research Chair in Communication Policy and Governance, Department of Communication Studies and Multimedia, McMaster University

- Bannerman, S. (forthcoming). "Intellectual Property and the Sustainable Development Agenda" (The paper will be provided in advance)
- Escobar, A. (1996). "Construction nature: Elements for a post-structuralist political ecology." *Futures*, 28 (4), 325-343.

WEEKS 11-13 DISCUSSION ON YOUR OWN RESEARCH

Week 11 (Mar 22) **In-class presentations on research methods**

- You are required to *consult and cite at least one scholarly article on method(s) of your choosing* to gain more knowledge about the specific method(s) you plan to use for your proposed study.
- **The research methods written assignment due by 5pm, Monday, March 25.**

Week 12 (Mar 29) **How to do a literature review?**

- Knopf, J. W. (2006). Doing a literature review. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 39(1), 127-132. Available at: <http://jonathanrenshon.com/Teaching/NPS/ResearchDesign/Doing%20a%20Literature%20Review.pdf>
- Barker, M. (2014). Doing a literature review. In A. Vossler and N. Moller (eds.), *The counselling and psychotherapy research handbook* (pp. 61–73). London: Sage. Available at: <http://oro.open.ac.uk/43888/3/BarkerTCPRH2014.pdf>
- **Recommended (optional):** Organizing Your Social Sciences Research Paper: 5. The Literature Review (<http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/literaturereview/>); and a tutorial video: Literature Reviews - An Overview for Graduate Students (<https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tutorials/litreview/>)
- **Please bring in your annotated bibliography (the 1st assignment) for class activities.**

Week 13 (Apr 5) **Imagining your MRP project**

- *Please read **at least one of the MRPs** in the past years and briefly talk about your "discovery" and questions (if applicable).*
 - You can find the titles of previous MRP projects from the link here: <https://globalization.mcmaster.ca/resources/graduate-resources/past-major-research-papers/view>. The IGHC office has the e-copies of the MRPs in recent years and the hard-copies of those in early years.
- **Final paper consultation can also be arranged at the end of this class.** Detailed to be provided in advance.