

**M.A. COLLOQUIUM
POLSCI 775
Fall 2019/Winter 2020, Term 3**

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Seminar: Tuesdays, 11:30am - 2:20pm
Classroom: LRW 5001

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-4:00

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Course Description

The MA Colloquium is a required part of the MA degree programs in the Department of Political Science. Its principal aim is to give students an opportunity for collegium-building both among one another and with the department faculty. It provides a somewhat less formal setting in which to interact with faculty members. Structured as a series of seminars, the format will be open discussion following informal presentations by faculty members on their research. Other sessions will include career advice from a former graduate as well as several dedicated to addressing preparation of the MRP as well as other matters likely to confront students as they complete the program.

Course Objectives

- n/a

Required Materials and Texts

- n/a

Class Format

Structured as a series of seminars, the format will be open discussion following informal presentations by each week's presenter(s).

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Assignments
2. Attendance
3. Participation

Course Evaluation – Details

Assignment 1: 1-2 page critique, due March 17, 2020

There are some specific assignments.

Assignment 2: MRP outline presentation, due March 31, 2020

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and is expected of all graduate students.

Participation

Participation is ongoing. Students will be evaluated according to their participation in the Colloquium.

Weekly Course Schedule

Note: This is a draft schedule. While the dates will likely remain the same, the precise content will change as the schedule is still being finalized.

This seminar will run every second Tuesday, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (some weeks the time slot will be 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. as noted below).

Course Schedule, Fall 2019

Week 1 (SEP 10) Program & Course Selection

Topic: Review of program and course selection

Dr. Peter Graefe, MA Political Science Advisor
Dr. Marshall Beier, MA Global Politics Advisor

Michael Gordon, PhD Candidate who is representing the Mapping9 conference committee will also make a brief presentation

Notes: Course enrollment worksheets are due Wednesday, September 11, 2019
Please return the completed form to the main office, KTH 527.

***Week 2 (SEP 24) Research Library Orientation (Mills)**

Topic: Overview and Resources

Olga Perkovic, Research and Advanced Studies Librarian
Vivek Jadon, Data Specialist
[Mills Library, Wong e-Classroom, L107](#)

Week 3 (OCT 08) Faculty Round Table I

Topic: Canadian Politics / Political Theory

12:00 p.m. Canadian Politics
Peter Graefe
Stephen McBride

1:00 p.m. Political Theory
Catherine Frost
James Ingram

***Week 4 (OCT 22) Faculty Round Table II (11:30 a.m.)**

Topic: Comparative Politics and Public Policy

Katherine Boothe, Public Policy
Nibaldo Galleguillos, Comparative Politics
Netina Tan, Comparative Politics

***Week 5 (NOV 05) Faculty Round Table III (11:30 a.m.)**

Topic: International Relations

Peter Nyers, IR
Tony Porter, IPE / IR
Alina Sajed, IR

Week 6 (NOV 19) Research Ethics

Topic: Research Ethics – What are they?

This seminar will be hosted by Greg Flynn who sits on the McMaster Research Ethics Board. He will talk about the importance and content of research ethics.

Week 7 (DEC 03) MRP Preparation Q & A

Topic: Overview of MRP process and initial questions.

Course Schedule, Winter 2020

Week 1 (JAN 07) MRP Initial Topics Discussion

Topic: Open discussion about possible topics

Week 2 (JAN 21) Community Engaged Research

Topic: Opportunities to conduct research on local community projects

Meeting with C.A. Klassen who is Community Based Research Coordinator, Office of Community Engagement, McMaster University, and will provide insight on opportunities to conduct research on local community based research projects.

Week 3 (FEB 04) Mobilizing Research

Topic: Mobilizing Research

This topic will be covered by Stacey Gabitous, Communications Coordinator with the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Week 4 (FEB 25) Preparing for Life after the M.A.

Topic: Employment Strategies

This session will be hosted by Henry Jacek. Dr. Jacek has a long history of dealing with employers and will provide advice on employment strategies and possibilities.

Also in attendance will be Sorin Mitrea, PhD 2019, Policy Analyst with the Federal government.

Week 5 (MAR 17) Graduate Student Conference

Topic: Mapping the Global Dimensions of Global Policy 9 (March 13-14, 2020)

Students will discuss their views of the panels they attended at the Graduate Conference. Students will also attend a session of their choice of the Graduate Students Conference and write a 1-2 page critique of the session. These will be discussed in class.

Notes: 1-2 page critique due in class.

Week 6 (MAR 31) MRP Outline Presentation

Topic: Students will present brief outlines of their MRP topic, research question and plan.

Notes: MRP outline presentation due in class.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Any written assignments will be submitted in hard copy on the assigned due date.

Grades

The grade for the Colloquium is assessed on a P (pass) /F (fail) basis.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due on the date indicated. If you are unable to do so, please contact the instructor.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Regular attendance is expected of all graduate students. Please contact the instructor in advance (or as soon as possible) via email if you are going to be absent.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

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.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- 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. 28652 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 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, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

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 changes.