

MA MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER
POLSCI 708
2019-2020

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Seminar: n/a
Classroom: n/a

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Course Description

In addition to completing 18 units of graduate level coursework, students enrolled in the MA programs are required to complete a Major Research Paper (MRP) in the spring/summer following their coursework. MRPs are to be no longer than 10,000 words including all front matter, references and bibliography.

Course Objectives

The Major Research Paper (MRP) is an opportunity for students to do an extended piece of research on a topic of their choosing. Guidance on the MRP will be provided in the MA Colloquium (POLSCI 775).

Students will be assigned a faculty supervisor in consultation with the MA Convenor, Dr. Stephen McBride.

Required Materials and Texts

- n/a

Class Format

- n/a

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. First Draft, due Friday, May 1, 2020
2. Second Draft, due Friday, May 29, 2020
3. MRP (final version), due Monday, June 15, 2020

Course Evaluation – Details

First Draft Copy, due Friday, May 1, 2020

Your first draft copy is to be submitted to your Supervisor by this deadline. Comments will be returned to you on or about by Friday, May 15, 2020.

Second Draft Copy, due Friday, May 29, 2020

Your revised second draft is to be submitted to your Supervisor by this deadline. Comments will be returned to you by Friday, June 5, 2020.

MRP Final Copy, due Monday, June 15, 2020 by 4:00 p.m.

TWO copies of your MRP in finished form must be submitted to the Graduate Administrative Assistant with an electronic PDF copy to be emailed to Manuela Dozzi at dozzim@mcmaster.ca by 4:00 p.m.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

TWO copies of your MRP in finished form must be submitted to the Graduate Administrative Assistant by Monday, June 15, 2020 with an electronic PDF copy to be emailed to Manuela Dozzi, dozzim@mcmaster.ca by 4:00 p.m.

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, single or double sided on 8 ½ x 11" paper and coil bound with a clear cover. Sources must be documented according to the conventions of a recognized academic style (MLA, Chicago, etc.).

Grades

Your MRP will be read and marked by your Supervisor and a second reader, normally chosen by your Supervisor and/or MA Convenor. One copy of your MRP will be returned to you, the second one retained by the Department for its records.

The MRP is marked on a pass/fail basis. Truly outstanding papers may be given a pass with distinction (P+). We will collate comments from both markers and pass them on to the students.

MRPs will be graded and grades will be released informally via email on or about Wednesday, July 15, 2020. The release of final grades with comments from the Supervisor and second reader will be forwarded via email on or about Monday, August 17, 2020.

The Department will submit final electronic grades to SGS on Monday, August 17, 2020 or earlier.

Late Assignments

Those who fail to submit the final copy by the due date risk not graduating.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Please note that INCOMPLETES will only be granted for legitimate medical or other properly documented reasons.

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.