

McMaster University
Department of Political Science

POLSCI 708
M.A. IR – Major Research Paper (MRP)
Fall / Winter 2016 - 2017

Guidelines

In addition to completing 18 units of graduate level coursework, students enrolled in the M.A. in International Relations are required to complete a Major Research Paper (MRP) in the spring/summer following their coursework.

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 IR Colloquium. Students will be assigned a faculty supervisor in consultation with the IR convenor. MRPs are to be no longer than 10,000 words including all front matter, references and bibliography. That normally leaves 8,000 words for the text, which is the length of an average scholarly journal article.

TWO copies of your MRP in finished form must be submitted to your supervisor by **JUNE 15, 2017**. 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.). Those who fail to submit the final copy by the due date risk not graduating. Please note that **INCOMPLETES** will only be granted for legitimate medical or other properly documented reasons.

Your MRP will be read and marked by your supervisor and a second reader, normally chosen by your supervisor. 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 returned to students by July 15. A student whose MRP receives a failing grade will normally have the opportunity to revise and resubmit for August 15.

Any general questions should be directed to the MA IR Convenor, Dr. Robert O'Brien (obrienr@mcmaster.ca) or to Manuela Dozzi (dozzim@mcmaster.ca).