



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

LLAC 603
Research Methods in Literary and Cultural Theory
Fall 2021
MW 12:00-1:15
DELIVERED ON-LINE VIA ZOOM THROUGH D2L

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Prof. Rachel Schmidt

OFFICE HOURS: Please contact instructor by email to arrange an appointment on Zoom.

E-MAIL: rlschmid@ucalgary.ca

I will respond to emails within 48 hours on weekdays (not including holidays).

TELEPHONE NUMBER: Office number: 403-220-6383 (no voice mail)

DESCRIPTION

Students will gain acquaintance with research methods in the humanities, combined with a specific focus on their research interests. Students will develop their own research questions and will explore ways in which to answer these questions, as they relate to source texts in languages other than English. They will also be introduced to academic resources, such as the library, styles of source citation, and will acquire general professional skills such as c.v., conference abstract, and grant proposal writing.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an awareness of a variety of research topics and methodologies related to humanities research.
2. To understand historical terms and concepts that are still used in analysis today.
3. To understand the relationship between schools of theory and the way they have developed in time and continue to develop.
4. To learn how to parse an academic text and lead a discussion about it with peers.
5. To develop the ability to critically read and analyze texts and other cultural productions (literary works, films, etc.).
6. To learn to how to select an appropriate research topic, formulate informed research questions, compile sources, and argue a stance with the support of your evidence.
7. To cultivate a variety of professional skills for success in your graduate program and beyond!
8. To practice public speaking and how to deliver an academic presentation.
9. To develop confidence in research and compiling sources for your individual projects.

OUTCOMES

The students know how to prepare a conference paper and the essential elements of a research paper (bibliography, critical analysis of academic literature, outline, and thesis statement). They will have gained a working understanding of the various theoretical approaches in the field. In addition, they will have completed various components necessary for participation in research and the professional field, such as ethics training, an introduction to grant preparation, and a CV. They will also have led the discussion of a literary text and an academic article.



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REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Miguel de Cervantes. *Don Quixote de la Mancha*. Trans. Edith Grossman. Available in the University of Calgary bookstore.

Other reading materials will be accessible on D2L.

TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE PARTICIPATION

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

ON-LINE COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and synchronous Zoom sessions. When unable to participate live due to the time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform the instructor in advance and propose and implement an alternative participation activity (e.g., watch the recordings, submit a brief reflection, and actively contribute to the follow-up online discussion). There will be synchronous Zoom sessions throughout the term during the scheduled class times, and each will be recorded. Students are encouraged to participate in these sessions by chat or by raising their hands to ask questions and/or discuss.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these



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sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

COURSE NOTES

Given students' stated interests in the issues of reception, feminism, and the representation of the body and sexuality, the course content will focus on these theoretical issues. The professor will draw from her own field as well as theoretical sources during the first half of the semester to approach these topics. She will then ask each student to pick a text related to their interests to give the class to read and lead discussion about it. In this way, the course will function as a seminar based on each participant's main field but with the above themes as the unifying thread.

The first day of classes is Wednesday, Sept. 8 and the final day of classes is Wednesday, Dec. 8. No class will be held on Monday, Oct. 11 due to Thanksgiving. Classes will not be held on Monday, Nov. 8 and Wednesday, Nov. 10 due to term break.

Certain activities might be scheduled jointly with LLAC 602, held on MW 11:00-12:15. In those cases, our class time will be canceled so that students can join 602.

A more complete syllabus will be provided on the first day of class.

Please note that coming to class in itself is not considered evidence of good "class participation," rather it is a prerequisite. Please inform the instructors of any absences in advance whenever possible. Absence from class other than for major medical or religious reasons does not absolve you from turning in assignments or becoming aware of any new assignment due dates. Assignments that are missed due to unexcused absences may only be made up with instructor consent.

THERE WILL BE A DROPBOX IN D2L set up for all assignments. Assignments are to be turned in by the time indicated as the dropbox deadline and late assignments will not be recorded for a grade.

In general students will comment on each other's work through collegial and constructive discussion in the synchronous Zoom classes. If they are asked to go over each other's written work, they will give each other PDFs that can be commented on. Please be advised that the professor might ask to see the comments on the PDFs to assure that norms of civility are being followed.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment criteria:

Leading discussion of a literary text	10%
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Article mediation	10%
Content analysis	15%
Annotated bibliography (9 articles / chapters)	20%
Abstract, two-page research proposal + references	15%
Final oral presentation	20%
Curriculum vitae	5%
CORE certificate	5%

Note: Students must complete all assignments in order to pass the course.

Description of the assessment criteria:

Content analysis (15%): Students will complete a short (1500 word) analysis on a content piece that makes sense for their project (e.g. novel, film, artwork, comic book). This assignment will ask you to come up with an original argument about the text and support it with evidence. **DUE WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29.**

CORE ethics training (5%): Because some of you may be dealing with human subjects in your future research, you will need to complete CORE ethics training and understand the ethics application process. **DUE WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6.**

CV (5%): Because much of this class will be devoted to professionalization, you will be expected to submit a professional c.v. **DUE WEDNESDAY OCT. 13.**

Annotated bibliography (20%): You will read nine academic articles or book chapters that are related to the topic you will study for your final project. These readings can be used in the final presentation, and it is hoped that you will take the opportunity to explore one area of interest. Each entry in the annotated bibliography should be approximately one page and should contain the following:

- bibliographic information
- a short summary of the research (e.g., article's argument / main evidence, etc.)
- your critique.

DUE WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27.



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Leading discussion of a literary text [10%]: IN NOVEMBER you will be asked to lead the discussion of one literary text that forms part of your project. This text will be read by the rest of the class. More details will be made available in class and on D2L.

Article mediation (10%): IN NOVEMBER you will be asked to lead the discussion of one theoretical or analytical article related to one of your primary texts that will be read by the rest of the class. More details will be made available in class and on D2L.

Final oral presentation (20%): In the final week of the semester, students will present their research plan to the rest of the class. The presentation should include those aspects of your project that you have determined (i.e., literature review, gap in the research, description of the project, potential implications). You will be expected to have practiced and timed your presentation so that it fits within the allotted length allowed. The length of final presentations will be around 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes of group discussion. **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8 in conjunction with LLAC 602.**

Abstract, two-page research proposal and one page of references (15%): You will succinctly outline your proposed research project in writing. Write an abstract (no more than 250 words) in which you outline your final project, citing both the previous research you've read and the goal of your own study. You will also include the central research question from your project. This assignment is based on a grant application format. **DUE TUESDAY, DEC. 14.**

NOTE: You must complete all assignments in order to pass the course! All assignments will be turned in to the Dropbox on D2L.

Please also note that violations of standards of academic honesty will not be tolerated. Punishments may include, among others, no credit for dishonest work, expulsion from the course and a notation on your academic record.

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-97%

B+ = 85-81%

C+ = 70-67%

D+ = 57-54%

A = 96-91%

B = 80-76%

C = 66-62%

D = 53-50%



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A - = 90–86%

B- = 75–71%

C- = 61–58%

F = 49% and below

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

Academic misconduct

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>, and <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.



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FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.