

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2019-2020 MLCS 799: Candidacy Colloquium
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr Lynn Penrod
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Time: Wednesdays, 10:00 to 13:00
Place: TBD
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Prerequisite: Consent of department. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students’ Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

Course Description, Objectives, and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This seminar course will guide students in preparing the thesis proposal for the Candidacy Exam. Students will develop and define the research project and work with their corpus in small oriented workshops with the end goal of completing a working dissertation prospectus by the end of the term.

Course Format: As students will note from the preceding section of the syllabus, in this course students will work in small oriented workshops in order to achieve the objectives and learning outcomes stated above in the section entitled **Course Description, Objectives, and Expected Learning Outcomes**. This course is presented in seminar format as is typical for graduate courses.

Texts:

Students will read from great online resources along with different chapters from these books.

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, Joseph Bizup, and William T. Fitzgerald. *The Craft of Research*. Fourth edition.

Evans, David, Paul Gruba, and Justin Zobel. *How to Write a Better Thesis*. Third edition.

James, E. Alana, and Tracesea Slater. *Writing Your Doctoral Dissertation or Thesis Faster: A Proven Map to Success*.

Locke, Lawrence F., Waneen Wyrick Spirduso, and Stephen J. Silverman. *Proposals That Work: A Guide for Planning Dissertations and Grant Proposals*. Sixth edition.

Terrell, Steven R. *Writing a Proposal for Your Dissertation: Guidelines and Examples*.

Wentz, Elizabeth A. *How to Design, Write, and Present a Successful Dissertation Proposal*.

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

The instructor will provide any necessary photocopied material.

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: January 6, 2020

Add/Delete Date: January 17, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: February 5, 2020

Winter Term Reading Week: February 18-21, 2020

Withdrawal Date: April 1, 2020

Last Day of Class: April 8, 2020

Grade Distribution and Explanatory Notes:

Each of the components in this course will be graded as Pass or Fail.

Participation and Attendance: 50%

Attendance and participation in the course are essential. By attending class, participating in the assignments that are meant to guide you through writing your dissertation proposal, and discussing your ideas and issues with the class you will be supported through this process that will lead you to Candidacy.

Assignments: 50%

There will be five written assignments. Each assignment will be a good copy (ready for submission to your supervisor) of the section of the proposal. Each section is worth 10%. Each assignment will vary in length. All of these assignments will be graded as Pass/Fail. In

order to achieve a pass, a student needs to have a completed draft, which they will be submitting to the supervisor for feedback by the due date.

The sections with corresponding due dates will be as follows:

1. Background and/or Introduction First Draft (January 22, 2020)
2. Literature Review (January 29, 2020)
3. Methodology and Theoretical Framework (February 12, 2020)
4. Research Questions (March 4, 2020)
5. Outline/Timeline/References (March 18, 2020)

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, as previously mentioned in this syllabus under sections entitled **Grade Distribution and Explanatory Notes** as well as **Participation and Attendance**, students will receive a mark of either Pass or Fail. Attendance and active participation are expected of graduate students, and the instructor should be notified in advance if an absence is necessary. Given that the course is “graded” on a Pass/Fail basis, it is impossible to indicate in advance the specific number of absences that would constitute a Fail.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Since this course is meant to help you prepare for the Candidacy Exam, all assignments must be handed in on time in order to keep up with the pace of the course. The instructor will not accept any late assignment.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must

be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Graduate Grading Scale” (This grading scale does *not* apply to MLCS 799)

A+	97-100	Excellent
A	93-96	Excellent
A-	90-92	Excellent
B+	87-89	Good
B	79-86	Good
B-	74-78	Satisfactory
C+	68-73	Satisfactory
C	63-67	Failure
C-	58-62	Failure
D+	54-57	Failure
D-	50-53	Failure
F	00-49	Failure