

The College of the Humanities
Religion Program: RELI 5780A Winter Term
Research Methods

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Lecture: Kaltura Personal Capture

Office: Paterson 2A61, 520-2600, ext. 1954
Office hours: By appointment (Zoom)

Course Description

This mandatory seminar, intended as a digital workshop, guides students through the process of producing a paper proposal and the initial stages of writing the major research essay (MRE).

Course Objectives

The mark you receive will be based on whether and to what extent you meet the course objectives:

- ❖ To engage fully and participate regularly in class activities
- ❖ To perform at a high level on course exercises
- ❖ To offer high quality, online interaction (detailed questions, comments, critiques, and support) on the work of your peers
- ❖ To submit a stellar, 20 page written section of your MRE, plus a bibliography, on or before Apr. 27th

Evaluation

In this course, the mark you receive will reflect my overall assessment of your engagement, effort, and performance throughout the duration of the semester. You will not receive marks for any of the individual assignments, but I will update you regularly on your progress. The graduate student grade-range most prominent in North America is an A+ to a B-, where a B- is the equivalent to a D, and a C+ and lower are equivalent to an F. It is *generally* the case that graduate grades in the B-range mean you are not suitable for doctoral level work.

CLASS SCHEDULE

As of Week 2, we will begin with our workshops. These workshops will essentially be student moderated discussions in which each of you discuss the topic at hand. The moderator of each respective session should email me the recording once the workshop session comes to an end.

I will be viewing each group workshop and offering feedback via email. I am also available via Zoom for group and/or individual meetings (dates and times to be arranged in consultation with Professor). My evaluation of a students' performance in the course will largely be based on what I see of each student in each workshop session.

For details on the content of each workshop, see syllabus.

Week 1: Overview (see course site for recordings)

MRE OUTLINE DISCUSSIONS

Week 2: week of January 18: moderated by student 1

Week 3: week of January 25: moderated by student 2

Week 4: week of February 1: moderated by student 3

Week 5: week of February 8: moderated by student 4

Week 6: week of Feb 15: Annotated bibliographies are due; see below for details.

ARTICLE/BOOK CHAPTER DISCUSSIONS

Week 7: week of Feb 22: moderated by student 1

Week 8: week of March 1: moderated by student 2

Week 9: week of March 8: moderated by student 3

Week 10: week of March 15: moderated by student 4

Week 11: week of March 22: no class; prep week

MRE DISCUSSIONS

Week 12: week of March 29: moderated by student 1 OR 2 (students can choose)

Week 13: week of April 5th: moderated by student 3 OR 4 (students can choose)

Course Exercises

Academic Agenda

Due via email submission before the end of Week 1

Chart an academic agenda for yourself. What do you have to do to finish on time? How are you going to do it? What are your weaknesses as a scholar? Is it your writing? Systematic research? Synthesizing material? Writer's block? More importantly: how are you going to address your weaknesses? Being a scholar is about being self-critical and self-aware.

MRE Outline Discussions

A series of workshops (weeks 2-5) in which each of you work through what you think your MRE will look like.

Annotated Bibliography

At the start of Week 6, you will email me your Annotated Bibliography. By this point your bibliography should be very full, but I do not need to see the whole thing. I only need to see 20 items with annotations from your bibliography.

“Annotation” means you have read the work in question, can say a few words by way of summary, and offer a few critical thoughts on how this piece contributes to your work.

Having this deadline forces you to make sure your work is advancing, and it helps me to get to know your work better.

Article/Book Chapter Discussions

A series of workshops (weeks 7-10) in which each of you will discuss one article/book chapter that (1) got you thinking about your research topic, or (2) represents the key issues/questions pertaining to your research topic, or (3) is foundational in setting the boundaries of your research topic, or (4) all of the above. Please send me your selected article/book chapters before the end of week 6.

The key here is that your peers learn more about your topic, beyond just the title/description, but also about the questions, issues, theories, ideas, etc. which inform it.

Pre-Recorded Student Presentations of MREs

A series of workshops (weeks 12 and 13) in which you will each discuss your MRE topics. Please submit 20 pages of your MRE to me before the end of Week 10—these 20 page documents will be the basis of your workshops.

Final Submission of MRE Section

Due via email submission on Apr. 27th

This document must be 20 double-spaced pages including notes. There should be a full bibliography, which is extra to the page-count. The bibliography and notes should follow Chicago Style: www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html; please follow the “Notes and Bibliography” option, not the “Author-Date” option.

The content of the proposals will vary according to the type of work being undertaken. I will trust you to consult with your MRE director to establish the best form for you. Remember, the goal is to end up with a solid section that jump-starts you on your MRE project, and that sets you up to complete it on time.

Please submit your papers to me electronically. I will look at them, but will not mark them. Since I am not your director (unless I am your director), it is not my job to do that close an analysis of your work. Thus, you may not hear from me at all.

If I see that the work has been done, I will be satisfied. I strongly encourage you to maintain contact with your MRE directors throughout the course, and to especially ensure that they see your 20-page paper before the Apr. 27th submission deadline. MRE directors do not want surprises coming out of this course (e.g., a student having decided on a new topic!).



University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the [Important Dates and Deadlines section](#) of the Registration Website.

Online Learning Resources

While online courses offer flexibility and convenience, they also present unique challenges that traditional face-to-face courses do not. [On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

Copies of Written Work Submitted

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

The University Senate defines **plagiarism** as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;

- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Academic Integrity Process](#)

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

Parental Leave: The Student Parental Leave Policy is intended to recognize the need for leave at the time of a pregnancy, birth or adoption and to permit a pause in studies in order to provide full-time care in the first year of parenting a child or for health-related parental responsibilities.

Religious obligation: Carleton University accommodates students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Academic accommodation of students with disabilities is available through the [Paul Menton Centre](#) by evaluations that are carried out on an individual basis, in accordance with human rights legislation and University policy, and with the support of relevant, professional/medical documentation.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

Individuals who disclose that they have experienced sexual violence will be provided support services and will be treated with dignity and respect at all times by the University and its representatives. A person affected by sexual violence is not required to report an incident or make a complaint about sexual violence under the formal complaint process of the Sexual Violence Policy in order to obtain support and services, or in order to receive appropriate accommodation for their needs.

[Supports and services available at the University to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support.](#)

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. [More information.](#)

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean."

The [system of grades](#) used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion, is listed below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value.

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

[More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

[7 Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

1. Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the

instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due. The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to illness or injury for a significant period of time/or long term, the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.

[More information of deferred Term Work](#)

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [here](#).

[More information on Final Exam Deferrals](#)

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#). Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for

Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. You can do this via the [MyCarleton Portal](#). A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load.

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

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