Milestone 2 - Literature Review

In developing a literature review, you assess the scholarship that exists on a specific topic or research question. The literature review process will allow you to identify critical points in current theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. This is more useful than just collecting sources for a bibliography because it forces you to research, read each source carefully and compare them critically.

This activity helps you create an account of the significant, peer-reviewed works published about your narrow topic. This will provide you with a comprehensive overview of your research topic within the existing literature and help you strengthen your research focus, problem and aim. For more guidance on how to perform and write a literature review, please refer to these additional resources:

- Conducting a Literature Review
  https://library.carleton.ca/guides/subject/conducting-literature-review

- Siddaway, A. P., Wood, A. M., & Hedges, L. V. (2019). How to Do a Systematic Review: A Best Practice Guide for Conducting and Reporting Narrative Reviews, Meta-Analyses, and Meta-Syntheses. In *Annual Review of Psychology* (Vol. 70). https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-psych-010418-102803

- Tetzner, R. (2019). 8 Key Steps for Writing a Literature Review Article for a Journal?. Proof-reading-service. Retrieved from https://www.proof-reading-service.com/en/blog/key-steps-writing-literature-review-article-journal/

- How to write a Literature review
  https://custom-writing.org/blog/how-to-write-a-literature-review

This thesis activity starts in the Fall term of your first year and becomes the core of your thesis work in the Winter term. During this time, you will research, evaluate, summarize, compare and critically connect relevant resources.

Then, through this document, you will provide a critical written account of the current state of your research topic in the literature and describe the relationship of each source to the others that you have selected through logical transitions between the topics. Specifically, you will: 1) outline the current scholarly work in the area, ideally through a keyword search; and 2) explain how the existing literature discusses the issue(s) you will focus on in your research. You should refer to specific seminal sources in the area and critically reflect on them. It will be important to identify and distinguish how different writers (or schools of thought) take different approaches to discuss the topic or issue(s). Then, having explained the state of the existing scholarship, 3) you will explain the gaps or shortcomings in that existing scholarship. What has not yet been done or what has not been done adequately? Or is it that something has not been approached in a particular way yet? These questions should be supported by referring to the existing literature.

How much literature do you need to review? Your literature review does not need to cover every work in the field – this is impossible. It needs to refer to enough literature to make it clear that you are familiar with the major works in the topic area, specifically the works across disciplines that are relevant and scoped to the topic and issue(s) you are investigating. Do not include irrelevant literature even though you have reviewed it in earlier stages of your work.

Summarize and critically appraise the key articles or books you regard as particularly relevant to your proposed study. Explain how they relate to your research. Do they contain an argument or position you intend to question or defend or an idea that could help you to answer your question? Please fully reference up to 10~15 key sources.

The document should be between approximately 3000 words in length – references excluded.

References must be listed at the end of the document, in a section named "References", in alphabetical order and follow the APA style guide.

Milestone 2 **must be submitted to the MDes Brightspace submission link** by **May 31st.** If you have an external co-supervisor, you should email the document to them.