Migration and Diaspora Studies Winter 2024

Arthur Kroeger College Carleton University

<https://carleton.ca/mds/>

**MGDS 5003  
RESEARCH SEMINAR**

Tuesdays 11:35am to 2:25pm

**Meeting dates**

**First class:** 9 January 2024

**Reading week:** 20 February 2024 (no class)

**Last class:** 9 April 2024

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**Instructors, office hours and contact information**

The course is co-taught by two MDS-affiliated faculty members:

Dr. Laura Madokoro  
Office hours: By appointment

E-mail: laura.madokoro@carleton.ca

Dr. James Milner  
Office hours: Tuesdays, 9:30am to 11am (or by appointment)

E-mail: james.milner@carleton.ca

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**E-mail policy**

Please note that when corresponding with course instructors, be sure to include the course code (MDS 5001) in your subject line. You can expect an email response within 24 hours during the week. Instructors will generally not be responding to emails over the weekend.

**Course material**

This course will be managed through Brightspace, Carleton University’s course support platform. We will discuss the sections and functions of Brightspace during our first class meeting. Please visit the course’s Brightspace site regularly to receive the most current information pertaining to the content and delivery of the course.

Any required readings will be posted in the relevant Brightspace module at least 7 days before the relevant class meeting.

Grading rubrics for course requirements will also be posted in the relevant Brightspace module after the requirement has been introduced in class.

**Course Description**

This course continues the core course sequence for the Migration and Diaspora Studies MA program. The main focus is on research design and research methods in Migration and Diaspora Studies. The course takes a hands-on approach in which you will workshop your draft material and receive guidance as you design and implement your own research project.

The main written assignment for the course will vary depending on your stream in the program. Research Essay and Thesis stream students will submit a research proposal for their Research Essay or Thesis. Coursework Pathway students will submit a research paper of c. 25 pages on a topic of their own choosing.

**Course objectives**

The main objective of the course is to provide students with training and guidance on the preparation of a major research project. Class time will be dedicated to instruction on research design, methodology, and ethics with extensive individual consultations and peer-review activities to support the production of a major research project. By the end of term, students should have developed an advanced understanding of research design and methodology, ethical considerations, and produced an independent research project.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have gained knowledge about issues in interdisciplinary research design and methods in the fields of Migration and Diaspora Studies and you will have applied this knowledge and skills in the design of your own research project:

* For students in the research essay or thesis stream, you will have produced a proposal for your research essay or thesis.
* For students in the coursework stream, you will have produced a research paper.
* You will gain experience in conducting research (finding materials using library catalogue and databases, compiling bibliographies, taking notes on sources).
* In oral presentations and in participation in class discussions you will hone public speaking skills and your ability to present arguments and opinions that are supported by evidence.
* You will gain practice in engaging in collegial and constructive peer review of other students’ work, important foundations of participating in a scholarly community.

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**Structure of class meetings and workshops**

There are two formats in which the class will meet: as a whole for class meetings and in half for workshop weeks.

For weeks when we meet as a whole class, we will meet for 2 hours and 50 minutes, with a short break in the middle of our meeting time. Whole class meetings will include discussions of specific themes and roundtable discussions with guest speakers.

For workshop weeks, as indicated in the schedule below, the class will be divided in two, according to research interests. Workshops will be led simultaneously by Laura and James and are designed for students to present their work and receive feedback from instructors and peers.

Arrangements for workshop weeks will be discussed by Week 4 in the term.

Students should also note the weeks when there will be no class meetings. These are weeks when students are given additional time to either advance their own work or complete class activities. Instructors will be available for individual meetings during these weeks.

**Requirements**

There are four graded elements for the course:

Research Question and Proposal (due 23 January 2024): 15%

Peer Review of Draft Projects (due 19 March 2024): 25%

Major Research Project (9 April 2024): 40%

Participation: 20%

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**Schedule**

**Week 1**

**9 January 2024 Introduction and overview of pathway options**

Led by Laura and James

**Week 2**

**16 January 2024** **Research Design and Roundtable**

Led by Laura and James with MDS Faculty

Required readings to be posted on Brightspace by 9 January

**Week 3**

**23 January 2024** **Methods and methodologies**

Led by Laura and James with MDS Faculty

Required readings to be posted on Brightspace by 16 January

**Due:** Research Question and Proposal

**Week 4**

**30 January 2024 Workshop Research Question**

Led by Laura and James

**Week 5**

**6 February 2024 No class meeting**

Work on argument and outline, including sources/methods

**Week 6**

**13 February 2024** **Workshop argument/outline/sources/methods**

Led by Laura and James

**Reading week No Class**

**Week 7**

**27 February 2024 Ethics**

Led by Laura

Presentation by Leslie MacDonald-Hicks, CUREB

Required readings to be posted on Brightspace by 9 January

**Week 8**

**5 March 2024 No class meeting**

Individual preparation of draft for peer review

**Week 9**

**12 March 2024 No class meeting**

Individual preparation of draft for peer review

**Week 10**

**19 March 2024 No class meeting**

**Due:** Peer review assignment

During this week, you will send a draft of your final assignment to another member of the class for them to review. During the class meeting time, you will then review the work of another member of the class.

**Week 11**

**26 March 2024 No class meeting**

Time for individual consultations with Laura and James

**Week 12**

**2 April 2024 No class meeting**

Individual preparation of final submission

**Week 13**

**9 April 2024 Reflections on Knowledge Production**

Led by Laura and James

**Due:** Final projects

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**Course Administration and Policies**

Students should be familiar with Carleton University policies that are applied in this and all courses, in addition to services and supports that are available to all students.

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**Statement on Plagiarism**

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.”* This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

* any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
* using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae,
* scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
* using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
* submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
* failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offense 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.

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**Statement on Student Mental Health**

As a university student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you:

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**Emergency Resources (on and off campus):**

<https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

**Carleton Resources:**

* Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
* Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
* Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
* Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
* Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
* Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

**Off Campus Resources:**

* Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550,
* <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
* Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
* Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389,
* <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
* Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
* The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

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**Academic accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Informal accommodation due to short-term incapacitation**: Informal accommodations can be granted on a discretionary basis. Please see either Laura or James with any requests for accommodations or email both instructors with your requests. If you require supporting documentation, you may only request the Self-Declaration for Academic Considerations form which replaces medical notes: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>).

**Pregnancy obligation**: write to us with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](https://carleton.ca/equity/contact/form-pregnancy-accommodation/)).

**Religious obligation:** write to us with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details ([click here](https://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/religious-observances/)).

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the Ventus Student Portal at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the University Academic Calendars. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

**Survivors of Sexual Violence:** As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

**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. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to us with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

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**Grading**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructors, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Percentage** | **Letter grade** | **12-point scale** | **Percentage** | **Letter grade** | **12-point scale** |
| 90-100 | A+ | 12 | 67-69 | C+ | 6 |
| 85-89 | A | 11 | 63-66 | C | 5 |
| 80-84 | A- | 10 | 60-62 | C- | 4 |
| 77-79 | B+ | 9 | 57-59 | D+ | 3 |
| 73-76 | B | 8 | 53-56 | D | 2 |
| 70-72 | B- | 7 | 50-52 | D- | 1 |

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

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**Carleton E-mail Accounts**

All email communication to students from the MDS program will be via official Carleton University e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

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Prepared by Dr. James Milner and Dr. Laura Madokoro, December 2023