

Spring 2022
HOPR 3954H: Honors in the Humanities Research Seminar
T 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM
David Straz Hall 369

Professor Gerry Canavan
Marquette Hall 244
gerry.canavan@marquette.edu
Office Phone: 414-288-6860
Office Hours: TTh 12:30 PM – 2 PM or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING GOALS

This one-credit seminar introduces you to research methods in the humanities and helps develop the tools necessary to develop your senior honors project. Building upon the sophomore-level Introduction to Honors in Humanities class, this course guides you through different stages of the research and proposal-writing process, offers strategies and helpful tips for each stage, and provides a forum for you to workshop your materials as you create and refine them. We will discuss strategies for formulating productive research questions; consider different approaches to and models for scholarly and creative projects; review how to find, evaluate, and synthesize sources as well as how to summarize, quote from, and cite these sources; consider how to engage with and contribute to larger scholarly and creative conversations; discuss how to formulate reasonable goals, how to manage your time, and how to balance research and writing with other commitments; and practice strategies for drafting and revision. We will also consider the formation of the various academic disciplines in the humanities and explore the nature of interdisciplinary work. We will also discuss how to find and productively work with a faculty mentor. Your work in the seminar will culminate in a proposal for the 4999H faculty-mentored honors project that you will undertake next fall. This course meets for the first twelve weeks of the semester and is graded on a S/U basis.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND PERSONAL EMERGENCIES

Everyone at Marquette recognizes that this is an extremely difficult time which may be filled with different sorts of uncertainty as we move forward with the academic year. Your safety, health, and well-being are our primary concern and we want to be able to support you in any way that we can.

The university also understands that you may be facing personal obstacles that may make it difficult to meet your typical academic goals. Please refer to the Student Resources page on the Marquette COVID-19 Response webpage for information and resources on basic needs such as housing, food, financial aid, and medical and mental health; the webpage also offers information on official University communications, access to technology, and student services. Faculty and staff are also here for you.

If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your situation outside of class, please don't hesitate to talk with me. I want to be a resource for you. You are not alone.

COVID-19 POLICY

Everyone in this class will be expected to follow the current COVID-19 policies in effect on campus, including current guidance on masks.

REQUIRED TEXTS

You are not required to purchase any materials for this course. We will make use of Booth, Colomb, and Williams's *The Craft of Research*, which is available on the library website via EBSCO, as well as additional readings I will provide via D2L.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

By the end of the term, you will produce:

- a transcript of discipline-specific research methodology interview with a potential faculty mentor;
- a two-page literature review;
- an argument outline;
- multiple drafts of a 5-to-7 page research proposal, including a lightly annotated bibliography of 10-20 primary and secondary sources, presented in the last week of class.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class discussion is an essential component of this seminar; class discussion, not lecture, will be the primary means by which we will investigate these texts together. It is crucial that you come to class every day having read the required material and prepared to discuss it.

Consequently, attendance in this class is mandatory. You should plan on attending every class. Please talk to me (in advance if possible) if you ever find you will need to miss a class meeting. Students who miss class on a given day will be expected to make that work up via a post on D2L in order to have the absence excused.

The course adheres to Marquette University's attendance policy, which can be found on the Internet at <http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#attendance>. You are allowed **two unexcused absences** over the course of the spring semester. Upon the second unexcused absence, you may receive a WA (Withdrawn—Excessive Absences) for the semester.

Merely being present in class is insufficient for an “A” in class participation. Each student is expected to *participate in* and *contribute to* our discussions. Just being in the room is not enough.

FORMAT OF WRITTEN WORK

Much of your written work in this course is published using D2L's forums. You should compose your work in a word processing program, not in your browser, and then copy and paste it into the appropriate discussion forum when the post is finished. Composing your work in a word processing program will make it easier for you to save a copy of the work on your own hard drive, as well as prevent you from losing your work if your browser crashes, resets, or otherwise fails to successfully upload the material.

All papers should be typed in twelve-point font, double-spaced with one-inch margins, saved in a format Microsoft Word can open. Your filename should contain *your name* in it, for example, yourlastname-firstpaper.docx.

I expect you to *edit* and *proofread* all written work.

Please give each piece of writing an original title, and include your name, the name of the assignment, and the due date in a header on the first page. **All sources relied upon for the writing of your paper, including the primary text, must be appropriately cited.**

PAPER SUBMISSION

Major assignments should be submitted via the D2L Dropbox. Please see below regarding extensions, and please keep in mind that early submission of work is totally acceptable.

Your other written work will be submitted via the D2L forums. These papers will have variable due dates driven by your own interests and response. **It is thus your responsibility to make sure you are properly keeping up with this portion of the course in a timely fashion.**

Except in very unusual circumstances, work will not be accepted by email.

EXTENSIONS

Although the assignments in this course have a sufficiently long timetable to allow you to plan and complete all work in a timely manner, I nonetheless recognize that emergencies do happen, especially in the context of the pandemic. **If you find that you will not be able to make a deadline, please contact me as soon as you can to arrange an alternative due date.** There is no need to concoct an elaborate story to justify this, or to lie to me; simply tell me the truth about what's going on and we can work out an alternative that works for you.

TECHNOLOGY IS TERRIBLE: PLAN AHEAD!

The Internet goes down. Files become corrupted. Computers crash. These are predictable facts of twenty-first century life, not emergencies. For this course, for all your courses, for the rest of your career and your life in this world you need to develop work habits and strategies that take into account the basic, inescapable unreliability of computers. Start your assignments well in advance of the due date; save them often, while they are still in process; save backup copies of essential documents like your papers, including copies off-site using a service like Carbonite, Dropbox, or Google Drive. Even just periodically emailing your papers-in-process to yourself will prevent you from losing your paper to a computer crash at the last minute.

LAPTOP POLICY

As Marquette moves towards a paperless learning environment, in-class use of laptops, Kindles, iPads, etc. becomes ever more important for access to electronic versions of our texts and for notetaking. However, students *must* refrain from non-class-related computer use, including email, instant messaging, Facebook, Twitter, and the like. **Please do not abuse this privilege or distract your fellow students.** I reserve the right to ban individual technological devices if this becomes a problem. Except in unusual cases of personal emergency, cleared with me at the start

of class, no use of cell phones will be permitted during class time; please turn off your ringers and put them out of sight.

EMAIL

Students in this class are required to check their official Marquette email account—whatever account D2L sends its emails to—at least once the evening before a scheduled class meeting, in case there are any last-minute announcements or disruptions. I endeavor to respond to all emails within 24 hours, usually much less—but please do not send me urgent emails regarding your assignments on the night before they are due and expect an immediate reply.

CONFERENCES

All students are asked to meet with me in at least two short one-on-one conferences in my office, via Zoom, or at an appropriately socially distanced outdoor location, once before Spring Break and once after. Weekly signups will be available on D2L.

Please know I am very happy to meet with you individually to discuss either graded work or work-in-progress in excess of this requirement as many times as you like. Simply come to my weekly office hours, or email me to set up an appointment.

FLEXIBILITY

If it will benefit the class, changes may be made to any of the above.

WRITING CENTER

Students are strongly encouraged to make use of the Writing Center, located in Raynor Library Room 240, at any stage of the writing process.

Please visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.marquette.edu/english/writingcenter/> to find out how to schedule an appointment and to access the studio's online resources.

ACCOMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who believe they may require accommodations in this course should contact me early in the semester so your learning needs can be appropriately met. I am of course more than happy to work with you to make sure you are successful in this course and to make this course most accessible for you. However, without documentation, I am limited in what I am able to do. Therefore, in order for me to help you most effectively, I need you to be proactive in contacting the Office of Disability Services (located on the fifth floor of the 707 Building). ODS can be reached by phone at (414) 288-1645 or by email at ods@marquette.edu.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are expected to abide by the academic honesty policy outlined in your undergraduate bulletin. I urge you all to examine this material and consult me with any questions you may have about plagiarism or academic integrity *before* it becomes an issue. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not an acceptable excuse for plagiarism. **Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the course.** No exceptions or special dispensations will be made.

Marquette students now sign an Honor Pledge, which states:

- *I recognize the importance of personal integrity in all aspects of life and work.*
- *I commit myself to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, by which I earn the respect of others.*
- *I support the development of good character, and commit myself to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity as an important aspect of personal integrity.*
- *My commitment obliges me to conduct myself according to the Marquette University Honor Code.*

Full details of Marquette’s academic integrity policy are available on the Internet at <http://www.marquette.edu/provost/academic-integrity.php>.

On a personal level, I (like everyone) hate being lied to. Please, do not feel you need to concoct elaborate excuses. Simply be honest with me about whatever is going on and we will work it out.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

We all enter this classroom with preexisting political, ethical, philosophical, and intellectual commitments. You are all required to engage the material—but you are absolutely *not* required to agree either with any of the writers we will discuss, or with me, in whole or in part.

RESPECT

This classroom is a community. It is crucial that we treat each other with the appropriate level of courtesy and respect. No one should be made to feel unwelcome here. Failure to treat other students with the respect they deserve will **severely** impact your class participation grade.

KEEP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN!

I want this class to be a meaningful and valuable experience for you, both in its own terms and in service of the development of your larger college experience. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or concerns about the way things are going, my door is always open. I put this statement on every syllabus, but I think it is especially important in a semester that is likely to be as chaotic and disorienting as this one. Please, keep me in the loop about what is going on with you in the world outside our classroom, and help me to make this class as successful as it can be.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class as they become necessary.

Students should come to class prepared to discuss the listed texts or chapters.

DAY	DATE	ASSIGNMENT
T	Jan. 25	FIRST DAY OF CLASS Introduction to the Course <i>in class:</i> Natalia Cecire, “Humanities scholarship is incredibly relevant, and that makes people sad” [Web]

T	Feb. 1	<p><u>Developing Research Questions</u> <i>The Craft of Research</i>, chapters 3-4 [library] https://humanitiesforall.org/ [Web]</p> <p><i>in class:</i> Present a paragraph-length version of your planned research question to the class.</p>
T	Feb. 8	<p><u>Finding and Evaluating Sources</u> <i>The Craft of Research</i>, chapter 5 [library]</p> <p>Meet in Raynor Library for presentation by research library Max Gray.</p>
T	Feb. 15	<p><u>Producing a Literature Review</u> <i>Research Methods: The Basics</i>, chapter 5 [D2L] <i>The Craft of Research</i>, chapter 6 [library]</p> <p><i>in class:</i> Be prepared to present initial research findings, trends, and/or frustrations from the previous week.</p>
T	Feb. 22	<p>CLASS CANCELLED: Attend at least one talk at the “Classical and Contemporary Themes from the Philosophy of Culture: Foreign Cultures, Subjectivity, Interculturality, Truth, and History” symposium and take notes on the speaker’s research archive, method, and approach.</p> <p><i>Select and interview your potential faculty mentor by this week.</i></p>
T	Mar. 1	<p><u>Method 1</u> <i>due:</i> Bring in your discipline-specific research methodology interview with potential mentor for discussion.</p>
T	Mar. 8	<p><u>Method 2</u> William Condee, “The Interdisciplinary Turn in the Arts and Humanities” [D2L] Matthew Kirschenbaum, “What Is Digital Humanities and What’s It Doing in English Departments?” [D2L] Jonathan Kramnick, “The Interdisciplinary Fallacy” [D2L]</p>
T	Mar. 15	SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS
T	Mar. 22	<p><u>Argument and Counterargument</u> <i>The Craft of Research</i>, chapter 7</p> <p><i>due:</i> literature review <i>for class:</i> Identify two texts from your literature review that you see as potential inspirations or models for your work.</p>

T	Mar. 29	<u>Proposal Fundamentals</u> Walliman, <i>Research Methods: The Basics</i> , chapter 11 (D2L) <i>The Craft of Research</i> , chapter 12 <i>due</i> : one-to-two-page outline of the argument of your eventual honors project, as you imagine it taking shape
T	Apr. 5	IN-CLASS WORKSHOP <i>due</i> : first draft of proposal-in-process <i>in class</i> : self-assessment exercise
T	Apr. 12	<u>Revising</u> <i>The Craft of Research</i> , chapter 13 <i>due</i> : second draft of proposal-in-process <i>in class</i> : Quality Circle exercise
T	Apr. 19	FINAL PRESENTATIONS LAST DAY OF CLASS