

FA 803-001 - Interdisciplinary Seminar in Research Methodologies
Professor: Dr Charity Marsh

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Office Hours: Monday 11am -12pm or by appointment

Course Description: This course investigates contemporary research methodologies. This course is designed to promote discussion and debate on how to assess and evaluate working methods, articulate coherent research frameworks, and combine, contest and build methodologies for both written and studio research. It focuses on helping students understand a number of key research methodologies practiced across the humanities and social sciences in order to consider why, how, and when research should take place. Students will be required to work both outside and inside their own disciplines, and prepare informed scholarly presentations and written work. There will also be some practice lessons on research gathering, citation, and preparation of presentations and essays.

Class Schedule: M 1:00-4:00pm

Location: RC 049 (IMP Labs)

Required Text Book and Articles:

Students are required to print/copy all articles in the syllabus. All articles will be made available to you via UR courses or can be found on-line or in the library.

OBJECTIVES

In this course graduate students will engage in a deeper understanding of studies-based and studio-based methods and approaches used within the disciplines of Fine Arts (Media, Art, and Performance). Students will work on analytical skills through practicing close reading and presentation of ideas and discussion in class. Students will further develop writing skills and strategies towards their thesis projects, including the formulation of research questions, comprehension of a variety of methodologies, persuasive argumentation, source citation, and presenting ideas to the class.

EXPECTATIONS

- Each student is expected to attend all classes, FAPS presentations, and additional events as described in the syllabus
- Each student is expected to take notes on lectures and discussions, and participate actively in class discussions
- Each student is expected to read and take notes on the course readings in advance of each weekly meeting, and present a close reading analysis on a weekly basis
- Each student is expected to prepare and present a well-crafted and timed presentation of one method to be submitted
- Each student is expected to complete all course requirements on the dates identified in this syllabus

EVALUATION

Written assignments will be accepted online through URCourses uploads and forums. Microsoft Word is the preferred format for uploading attachments.

All of the following components must be completed to pass the course. Any incompleteness will result in an NP (fail) grade. Late assignments will be accepted only through an already-discussed extension under exceptional circumstances – if you need an extension it is your responsibility to contact me before the deadline. A late penalty of 10% of the component grade will be applied for each late day. Standards of Academic Integrity will be upheld: only work created for this course will be accepted; plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please review the University of Regina policy on Academic Conduct & Misconduct (<http://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/grad-calendar/policy-univ.html>) and consider taking the short online Academic Integrity Tutorial offered through the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (GSRT 800AA on the Registration system).

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Weekly Reading Analyses	20%	Due weekly
Presentation (with documentation submitted)	20%	March 21st
Research Methods List	10%	February 1st (1pm)
Wikipedia Entry (published)	10%	February 29th/ March 8th
Methodology and Research Plan	30%	April 4th (10am)
Attendance and Participation	10%	ongoing

Please review the following requirements closely.

Weekly Reading Analyses 20%

To pass this component you must:

- post to URCourses your reading analysis of one of the assigned readings for each week of class as noted on URCourses.
- posts must be uploaded by 9pm the night before class: they will be assessed before class each week.
- the grade for each weekly reading analysis will be equally weighted on meeting the requirement (posting your analysis on time and in full), the ambition with which you have tackled each analysis, and the quality of the content (depth of consideration and thought) that you have produced.

The reading analyses must include the following:

1. A succinct summary of the reading in your own words. Tease out the most important points, rather than merely reciting the arguments.
2. What are the strengths of the argument - how does the text contribute to the existing scholarship?
3. What are the weaknesses in the argument? What is missing or unaccounted for, and what bias is apparent?
4. Consider the sources (citations and bibliography) referred to in the text: how and why are they used; are they used effectively?
5. Any questions the text raised for you, or elements that you did not understand – these will be important for rich in-class discussions.

Presentation (with documentation submitted) 20%

(15 minutes presentation plus discussion, two respondent questions to another students' presentations, and a 2000 word report. Presentations will be scheduled for March 21st.)

Presentation:

Please choose a theorist/artist to present on who has a clearly articulated research methodology that has some link to class material and whose work intersects in some way with your own interests. Describe the methods they use, the critical framework in which these methods sit, and the results of their research, then evaluate and critique the methodology using critiques from course material and additional research. Briefly link the methodology to your own work. Meet once with your respondent partner in the final stages of your preparation and present them with a draft version of the presentation and incorporate their feedback. Please state in your presentation how their contribution helped you finalize your work.

Respondent:

As respondent you must meet once with someone on their final stages of their presentation, and provide critical feedback. You then must come prepared to their presentation with two questions that you think will further help discussion on the methodology they are presenting. Ask these at the end of your partner's presentation.

Report:

Take note of all feedback after the presentation and incorporate into a written report summarizing your presentation. The written report is due on UR courses one week after the presentations (March 28th).

Research Methods List 10%

Create a one-sentence summary of your proposed project for your MA/MFA. Then follow this with a bullet point list of your research methods. Include both detailed techniques, and broader methods and methodologies. Include those you currently use, and those you are interested in exploring. Briefly define any terms that are disciplines specific/ not in common use. At the end of the list, cite 2 sources on methods (books, articles, etc.) that are central in your disciplines(s), and that you intend to use in your final essay. Use MLA or Chicago style for the cited sources.

Wikipedia Entry 10%

Research and write a 500 word contribution on women artists, technologists, musicians, scholars, etc. from/ in/ affected by the prairies. A sentence or two should describe their methodologies. These will be edited and posted to wikipedia on March 8th as part of International Women's Day edit-a-thon, which is addressing the lack of representation of women on Wikipedia.

Methodology and Research Plan 30%

This essay will outline your proposal for your methodology or methodologies in your own work. It should critique an additional 1-2 methodologies discussed in the class not included in your Presentation; and present and justify your critical framework for research, as well as outlining the step you would need to take to pursue your MA/MFA research project. You must also include additional disciplinary specific research from researchers working in your area. Use MLA or Chicago Style for referencing.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Equal Access: Please consult with your instructor as soon as possible if you are having any problems with any component of the learning environment. If there is any student in this course

who, because of a disability or temporary illness/injury, may have a need for accommodations, please come and discuss this with your instructor, as well as contacting the Coordinator of the Disability Resource Office at 585-4631.

Safety: The University of REgina promotes a learning environment that is free from all forms of harassment and discrimination. This includes online environments. Please be both sensitive to difference and respectful of other opinions, even when they differ radically from your own. Some content may offend; warnings will be given where possible.

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1 - January 11

Introduction to Theory and Methods, Course Objectives, Expectations, Assignments

Case Study: Beat Nation

Readings: <http://www.beatnation.org/>, Kovach (Introduction to Indigenous Methodologies)

Week 2 - January 18

Discourse Analysis/ Ethnography/ Field Work

Case Study: Rave Culture

Readings: Foucault (Eye of Power) / Marsh (Understand Us Before You End Us) / Kovach (Storytelling as Indigenous Methodology)

Week 3 - January 25

Movement/ the Body/ Play

Workshop by **Principal Darci Anderson** at Flux School of Human Movement (3424 - 13th Ave)

Case Study: Flux School of Human Movement

Readings: <http://fluxregina.ca/FluxCrossFit/index.html>, Sontag

FAPS Presentation: "The Promise of Movement" - Marsh/ Anderson

Friday, January 29th at 3:30pm

Week 4 - February 1

Cultural Decolonization, Aesthetics, and the Senses

Case Study: Art as intermediary - **Professor David Garneau**

Readings: Garneau, Garneau

Week 5 - February 8

Fluxus: Chance and Play as a Creative and Conceptual Method

Case Study: Moving Towards Your Work as Play, Chance, Accidents, Experiments -

Professor Rae Staseson

Readings: Friedman

Week 6 - February 15 - Reading Week

Week 7 - February 22

Performance-Based Research

Case Study: Performance Practice and Creative Technologies - Dr. Helen Pridmore

Readings: Pridmore, LaBarbara

FAPS - Friday, February 25th at 3:30pm - “Adventures in Micro-Budget Filmmaking: The Sabbatical” - Brian Stockton

Week 8 - February 29

Scenography

Case Study: Scenographic Agency: a showing/ doing and a responsibility for showing/ doing -

Professor Kathleen Irwin

Reading: Irwin, Marsh (ethics), Scott (On Experience)

Thursday, March 3rd - Erik Steiner, Powell Lecture - Spatial History Project

Friday, March 4th - Talk and Panel on Visualizing Data

Saturday, March 5th Hack-a-thon

Readings: Wikipedia Entries submitted by your colleagues

Week 9 - March 7

Interdisciplinary Methods

Case study: Visual Methods combined with Indigenous Methods - **Dr. Carmen Robertson**

Readings: Robertson, Smith

March 8th - International Women’s Day -

Case Study: **Art and Feminism Wikipedia edit-a-thon 11am-5pm - Dr. Megan Smith**

Week 10 - March 14

Combining Practice-Based and Study-Based Research

Case Study: Building Interdisciplinary Methodologies - **Dr. Rebecca Caines**

Readings: Caines, et al.

Week 11 - March 21

Class Presentations! All students must present on this day!

Week 12 - March 28 - no class (replaced with March 8th)

Week 13 - April 4 - no class (replaced with March 3-5)