

ENGL 9002A Advanced Research Methods
Mondays 4:30-7:30pm in Weldon Library (Instructional Room 018)

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The purpose of this required pass/fail course is to introduce students to techniques, methods, and cultures of research in literary and cultural studies, and to develop their skills, knowledge, and understanding of advanced research methods through

- integrated co-instruction with Western Libraries instructional librarians and archivists in basic and advanced search methods and research services
- cultivation of an understanding of research as an iterative and exploratory but also disciplined and organized process
- selected readings in disciplinary methods and discussion
- selected readings in the current scene of humanities research in the corporatized university
- reflection on our own methods, assumptions, and positioning within English and cultural studies
- instruction in the development of SSHRC doctoral funding applications
- facilitation of the development of individual research projects (for example, for a single course during the same term of study, for the upcoming IRP, for a conference paper or article, or for early stages of the dissertation), with an assignment specific to this development
- development of a cohort or community of researcher-colleagues through shared weekly course activities and in-class discussion

Course work will be graded on a pass (60%+)/fail basis, measured in a range of ways: on brief pre- and post-assessments of skills, knowledge, and understanding of research techniques; on completion of out-of-class work; on the quality of reflective writing on the research process and/or required readings; on an assignment linked to the individual research project (e.g., a proposal, a selected annotated bibliography); and on informed and engaged contributions to in-class work. Attendance alone will not suffice to ensure a passing grade; but frequent absence from class (unless documented as stemming from a recognized need for academic consideration) will certainly minimize the likelihood of passing the course.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

Graduate Student Health and Wellness

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. *for example*, please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. Students seeking help regarding

mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.