

FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND MEDIA STUDIES
The University of Western Ontario
Fall 2021 and Winter 2022

LIS 9800: An Introduction to Doctoral-Level Research

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the professional and intellectual challenges of doctoral work in the fields of information and media studies including key skills (research, presentation, publication, peer review, ethics review, funding applications and thesis writing) and key resources (faculty and support personnel, library resources, university-wide communities and activities).

OBJECTIVES:

1. To expose students to the main areas of research in Information and Media Studies, and the Faculty members who work in those areas;
2. To introduce students to both the Faculty and the University-Wide resources for retrieving information suitable for doctoral-level research;
3. To introduce students to the traditions and practices of professional research dissemination, including research proposals, thesis writing, conference presentations, and submission for publication;
4. To introduce students to the techniques of presenting work for review: both peer review of scholarship, and ethics review of research practices involving human subjects;
5. To explore the challenges and career options facing FIMS doctoral students within a larger context of academic, professional, corporate, government, or public interest domains.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Please Note: The course focus may be broadened to appeal to students in all doctoral programs at FIMS. The learning outcomes reflect the course's original exclusive focus on LIS doctoral work.

Upon successful completion of readings, assignments, and class participation, students will be able to:

- Claim an initial familiarity with the major research areas and specializations in the discipline of LIS (Learning Outcome 1);
- Recognize the relationships and differences with other disciplines both within and beyond the Faculty (Learning Outcome 2);
- Use key resources for retrieving and assessing research (Learning Outcome 3);
- Understand the key components and traditions of scholarly communication (Learning Outcome 5);
- Understand the key requirements of successful peer review, from the perspective of conduct and reception (Learning Outcome 6);
- Explore the broader scholarly and ethical implications of LIS scholarship when applied to academic, professional, corporate, government, or public interest domains of interest

INSTRUCTOR:

Paulette Rothbauer

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Office hours: by appointment.

CLASS MEETING TIMES:

This course runs from September 2021 to April 2022. We will meet 13 times over the academic year.

Students are also required to attend a minimum of 4 academic talks over the course of the academic year, of which 2 must be located in FIMS.

Classes will be held during the Winter Term on alternate Wednesday mornings, 9:00 - 11:50 am., in Room 4130 of the FIMS Nursing Building.

Class dates are as follows:

Class 8: January 12

Class 9: January 26

Class 10: February 9

Class 11: March 2

Class 12: March 16

Class 13: March 30

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Readings and other assigned materials will be made available in digital versions, accessible through the course OWL site.

EVALUATION:

The course is **pass/fail**, based on attendance and participation. Participation will involve the preparation of occasional assignments based on work done in other courses, a modest amount of reading, facilitation of discussion, reports back to the class on various aspects and issues raised during our discussion. Invited guests will be attending from week to week.

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend every class in the course. Students who need to miss a class for whatever reason should inform me beforehand if possible. Students who miss more than 2 classes may be in danger of failing the course.

Academic Offences: 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
No plagiarism-checking software will be used in this course.

Support Services: Students who are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness at Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Also see the Mental Health and Wellness Resource Guide for additional information: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/MHWRG2018.pdf>