

FIMS 9800Y-001 (Fall 2023)

Introduction to Doctoral-Level Scholarship

Thursdays, 9:00-11:50 am (every second week), Sept. 14, 28, Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 9, 23, Dec. 7

Location: FNB 4130 (in-person)

Instructor: Melissa Adler, Associate Professor

email: madler7@uwo.ca

Office hours: Thursdays, 1:00-2:00, FNB 4136 or by appointment



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).

This course is a half credit weight course offered over two terms (fall and winter).

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.

I have designed this course with the intention of experimenting with pedagogical methods. My hope is that we collectively gain some insights into different ways of teaching, learning, and knowing. Having a pass/fail course affords us some interesting opportunities to try different techniques, which you might find useful in your own teaching.

Enrollment Restrictions:

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Faculty of Information & Media Studies.

Course Materials

All reading materials will be available via OWL

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.

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.

The following assignments/activities are required to pass the course:

- 1) **Discussion leader:** Each of you will choose a reading for the class. You will lead a discussion of that reading. Submit a think-piece (~500 words) and two to three questions for discussion ahead of class.
- 2) **December research day (contribution and review...tentative)**
- 3) **Inspiring Minds** submission
- 4) **Career roadmap (Draw/write)**
- 5) **Updated CV**

Week 1 (September 14): Welcome to FIMS, welcome to London!

Week 2 (September 28): Writing, Citing, Peer review

Finalize the readings for the syllabus

Katherine McKittrick, *Dear Science and Other Stories*: [Footnotes \(Books and Papers Scattered about the Floor\)](#), begins on p. 14

Laura Hartenberger, What AI Teaches Us About Good Writing:
<https://www.noemamag.com/what-ai-teaches-us-about-good-writing/>

Shannon Mattern: [Finding Sources](#) ; [Literature reviews](#) ; [Reading effectively](#)

Week 3 (October 12): Conferences and Associations, Knowledge mobilization (Faculty panel)

Week 4 (October 26): Roadmap to the PhD (Student panel)

Week 5 (November 9): Giving presentations ; Information science/Media studies

Readings from the field (tbd)

Week 6 (November 23): Grants/funding ; Information science/Media studies

Check out the SSHRC website: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/fellowships/docteur-doctorat-eng.aspx>

Have a look at the [Research at FIMS, Law, Music blog](#) (subscribe, too)

[Pivot database](#)

Readings from the field (tbd)

Week 7 (December 7): Ethics ; Information science/Media studies

*Zook M, Barocas S, boyd d, Crawford K, Keller E, Gangadharan SP, et al. (2017) Ten simple rules for responsible big data research. PLoS Computational Biology 13(3), <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005399>

(For your reference, not required): REB Handbook - [Faculty of Arts and Humanities](#) (and related disciplines)

(Read the intro, skim parts) TCPS: https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2018.html

Readings from the field (tbd)

December 11/12—Research Day

Winter term topics (readings and schedule to be determined):

EDIDIA ; Land acknowledgements ; Governance ; Teaching ; Service ; CVs ; Writing proposals ; Publishing ; More readings from the field

Health/Wellness Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accessible Education Western (AEW)

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Statement on 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

