

DRAFT & Subject to DRC Approval

**Menno Simons College at the University of Winnipeg
International Development Studies Honours Thesis Syllabus**

IDS-4120/3-001

Fall 2011; Fridays 2:30-5:15; **ROOM TBA**

Instructor: Dr. Jerry Buckland
Office: MS234
Telephone: 953-3859
E-mail: j.buckland@uwinnipeg.ca
Office hours: TBA

Contents

Course Description	1
Rationale & Objectives.....	1
Texts	2
Course Requirements.....	2
Assignments.....	2
Key components of the thesis process	3
Handing in Assignments Late.....	4
Grading Scheme.....	4
Miscellaneous Information	4
Course Topics and Reading List.....	5
Menno Simons College.....	6

Course Description

Students in this course will plan and carry out an original research project related to International Development Studies. This research project will result in the writing and oral presentation of an honours thesis whose length and format will be based on standards for submission to a scholarly journal. Students will also engage in consultation with a research advisor and participate in collegial support processes for their research project. Prerequisites: IDS-2110/3 (or the former IDS-3110/3), IDS-3101/3, IDS-3111/3, AND IDS-3199/3.

Note: Students are strongly encouraged to complete their Research requirements for the IDS Honours program before enrolling in this course.

Rationale & Objectives

This course will provide honours students with the opportunity to develop research, writing and presentation skills appropriate for graduate school entrants, and to develop the important ability to give and receive academic support to and from peers in the process of research and writing a thesis. They will also become familiar with the process of writing for academic publication, and the process of working through a research project with an academic supervisor.

In this course, students will:

- Improve their ability to plan & carry out an original development research project, applying and improving library research skills, and qualitative or quantitative research skills as appropriate.
- Acquire the ability to identify an appropriate scholarly journal format for their thesis, and improve their academic writing skills to the point where they can effectively communicate their research using the chosen journal format.
- Improve their ability to effectively communicate a summary of their research in oral form, as well as participate in formative discussion of their research with other students and faculty members.
- Improve their ability to work independently with the help of a faculty advisor.
- Improve their capacity to participate in a collegial learning process, via peer group discussion and peer reviews.

Texts

There are no required texts for this course. It will be the responsibility of the students to access any readings they and the professor agree upon for classes in this course.

Course Requirements

The requirements of the course, with weighting and deadline, are listed in the table below. In addition, one of the first tasks of the class will be to determine the topics of discussion for seminars that are felt will assist students in completing their thesis.

Assignments

	Description	Contribution to final mark	Deadline (2011)
Research Topic	Statement of research topic, using modified SSHRC application format. This will include an outline of key research & writing tasks with a rough time-line (1-2 pages)	10%	30 September
Choice of Journal	Brief explanation of choice of journal & outline of its formal and informal writing expectations (1-2 pages, with any formal stylistic guidelines attached)	5%	8 October 2010

	Description	Contribution to final mark	Deadline (2011)
Preliminary Draft	A rough draft of at least 70% of the planned thesis, including detailed outline of any unwritten sections, and bibliography	12%	11 November
Peer Review	Critical response to the draft of one other student, based on scholarly peer-review mechanism for journals (min. 500 words—max. 1000 words)	5%	18 November (Wednesday)
Oral Presentation	Presentation of research & participation in discussion at an IDS honours seminar event	15%	2 December Subject to confirmation
Response to Reviewers	Written response (based on letter to a journal editor) indicating changes made in response to reviews received, seminar discussion & justification for any comments not accepted	5%	16 December
Final Copy	Final copy of research article, ready for addition to e-library collection of IDS student research	38%	16 December

More detailed instructions for the agreed-upon assignments will be distributed separately. I encourage you to meet with me and with other faculty, as appropriate to your topic, on a regular basis. If you have questions about any of the assignments in this course, or if you need advice or assistance with course work, please see me.

Key components of the thesis process

- Identify steps in a scholarly article writing process & identify your writing style/process
- Choose a research topic & justify that research topic (demonstration of originality, fit with IDS, etc)
- Choose a journal appropriate to that topic & identify ‘audience’ expectations (journal specifications and conventions for content, stylistic expectations, documentation format)
- Research the topic (create a research plan, identify & access sources, research ethics, information management, learn to use specialized library & other resources including bibliographic software)

- write drafts of thesis (this is likely to include partial or initial drafts, as well as a final draft for presentation)
- provide peer reviews (& support for peer writers/researchers)
- respond to peer reviews, supervisor input, discussion at defense
- oral presentation & defense of research
- make revisions
- prepare a final copy (may include some discussion of working with an editor, proof-reading a galley, etc)

Handing in Assignments Late

Assignments handed in after the due date will automatically receive a penalty of 5 percent with an additional penalty of 1 percent per workday for each additional day. Extensions for assignments may be granted if there are serious, documented reasons. Extensions will only be granted if you talk with the instructor before the assignment due date.

Grading Scheme

Exceptional	A+	90-100%	
Excellent	A-	80-84%	A 85-89%
Superior	B	70-74%	B+ 75-79%
Average	C	60-64%	C+ 65-69%
Marginal	D	50-59%	
Inadequate	F	0-49%	

An excellent (A) assignment would display:

- original thinking and a superior grasp of the subject matter
- a highly developed capacity for analysis, synthesis, and critical evaluation
- clear and appropriate description, with evidence of an extensive knowledge base
- the ability to organize information well, plus excellent writing and/or speaking skills in English
- clear and thorough documentation of research sources using the format of the journal chosen by the student for her/his thesis project

Miscellaneous Information

- The last day to withdraw from this course without academic penalty is [TBA]. If you are thinking of withdrawing, I encourage you to see me to discuss your decision.
- For information on grades, student conduct & discipline, appeals, and university policies and codes that affect students, see *The University of Winnipeg 2010-11 General Calendar*, section VII, ACADEMIC REGULATIONS AND POLICIES at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/cms-filesystem-action?file=pdfs/calendar/sectionviiacademicregulationsandpolicies.pdf>
- If you have questions or concerns about the mark or comments you received for an assignment in this course, Menno Simons College encourages you to first talk with me (your instructor) about it. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of this discussion, you can take issue to the IDS Program Coordinator. If that conversation is also

unsatisfactory you can talk to the Academic Dean of MSC. If that does not resolve the issue for you, the U of W has a formal process for appealing grades, which is explained in section VII of the Calendar.

- Students with documented disabilities requiring academic accommodations to meet course requirements should inform me well in advance and should contact Andrea Johnston, Disability Coordinator (a.johnston@uwinnipeg.ca , 786-9771) to discuss appropriate options. Information about the university's disability services is available at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-disability>
- All work submitted for this course should be typed or done on a word processor, and unless assignment instructions indicated otherwise, they must be submitted in paper form.

Course Topics and Reading List

The first scheduled class session will be used to determine the course requirements and topics, plus to discuss means of selecting a thesis topic. After that, this class will meet irregularly, as needed to cover the topics agreed to by the students and to support the work they do in meeting the course requirements. However, successfully completing course requirements will involve additional meetings by individual students (or small groups of students) with library staff, faculty, and/or other experts during scheduled class hours or at other, arranged times.

When the class does meet, I expect your attendance and full participation in any agreed-upon activities. I expect that your contributions to the course—whether in full meetings of the class, in individual meetings, or online and written contributions—will engage other students and encourage their participation, as well as respectfully defend or criticize the views of others. I also expect that you will respond respectfully to any criticism of your own research.

The list of topics to be covered in this course, and any readings appropriate to those topics will be determined jointly by the professor and students in the first week of class. A list of those topics will be distributed once it has been agreed upon. That list may be revised as the class responds to the subject matter of the course or to current events. As a result, some topics may be added and others may not be fully covered.

Potential topics for class meetings—for discussion & revision by students

- Understanding your research & writing style; improving your research & writing process (e.g. class meeting with member of Rhetoric & Communications faculty)
- Research strategies & materials available (e.g. meeting with appropriate reference librarians, potential faculty supervisor, etc.)
- Meeting research ethics requirements (e.g. meet with member of MSC or UofW research ethics committees)
- Scholarly journals—identifying a good fit for your research topic, editorial processes & expectations, peer-review processes (e.g. class meeting with former CJDS editor)
- Writing drafts & making revisions (e.g. examine & discuss writing process and/or revision process for a recent scholarly article by the instructor or other IDS faculty)

Menno Simons College

This course is offered by Menno Simons College in affiliation with the University of Winnipeg. MSC coordinates interdisciplinary programs and offers courses in International Development Studies and Conflict Resolution Studies in cooperation with several University of Winnipeg departments. All courses offered by MSC are subject to University of Winnipeg Senate approval and policies, and are open to all University of Winnipeg students. MSC was established at the University of Winnipeg in 1989 to develop programs based on the needs of our time and on the distinctive contributions that the Mennonite community can bring to these areas. Menno Simons College is part of Canadian Mennonite University. Additional information about MSC and the MSC Student Association activities is available from the MSC office at 520 Portage Avenue.

DRAFT