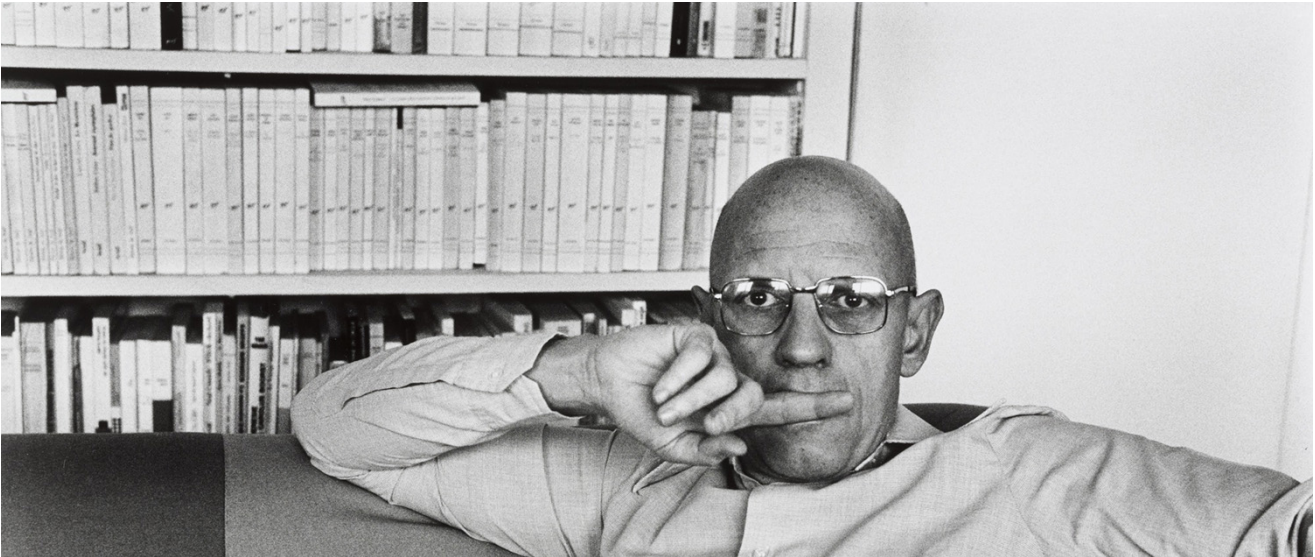




SOCI 391/491

Junior/Senior Seminar

**Instructor:**

Dr. Joel Z. Garrod
jgarrod@stfx.ca

Location:

Nicholson Tower 612
K8

Office Hours:

By appointment

The combined junior (SOCI 391) and senior (SOCI 491) seminar is intended to help Honours students prepare and complete their thesis project. The purpose of the course is to provide students in SOCI 391 the opportunity to observe first-hand the steps taken in completing a thesis project, while also giving SOCI 491 students a safe and supportive environment to present and discuss their research.

Beginning from how to choose a topic, we will move through each stage of the thesis project together as a group, drawing on our shared knowledge and experiences. In the process, we will also learn how to apply for research ethics, grants, scholarships, graduate programs, and how to present and promote our research.

Course Objectives & Textbook

By the end of this course, you will learn:

- The main components of a thesis project
- How to organize and manage your research data
- How to link theory and methodology together in your research
- How to apply for grants, scholarships, and graduate programs
- How to promote and disseminate your research findings

All readings can be found on Moodle



I truly believe that this course is relevant to your lives. If, at any time during this course, you feel that what we're learning isn't useful, I urge you to ask me: "Why should I give a damn?"

I'll gladly take time to explain why I believe what we're learning is important for you to know. And if I can't explain why, I'll amend that section of the course.



SOCI 391 Requirements

Participation is absolutely vital to this course, and will likely be a necessary part of getting a good grade. In return for attending, I promise to make the course interesting, and worthwhile. If you are unable to attend regularly, please talk to me about possible accommodations.

The **Area Study** assignments are meant to help you begin a literature review in a subject of your choice. Starting with the proposal, each subsequent study is intended to focus your analysis of the literature in preparation for your thesis project. Directions will be given in class and on Moodle. **Due October 19, November 23, and January 25**

The **Canada Curriculum Vitae (CCV)** is a necessary part of many major grant applications in Canada. As part of the course, you will be required to create one. **Due March 1**

Finally, you may choose to complete one of the following assignments: **(1) a one-page grant application; or (2) a presentation on your area of study**. The presentation can be presented at Student Research Day (usually in March) or in class. Details will be given in class. **Sometime in March**

Grading		
✓	Participation:	10%
✓	Area Study Proposal:	20%
✓	Area Study 1:	25%
✓	Area Study 2:	25%
✓	CCV	10%
✓	Grant or Presentation	10%

All citations in APA or ASA Style	Double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font	Late items lose 5 marks per day
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Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept 7	Introduction	Syllabus
Sept 14	Choosing a Topic, Finding an Advisor, and the Thesis Proposal	Eco, "Choosing a topic"
Sept 21	Canada Graduate Scholarship and the CCV	No readings
	Thesis Advisor Agreement Form and Thesis Proposal Due Sept 22	
Sept 28	The Literature Review and Data Management	Becker, "Terrorized by the literature" Mills, "Appendix: On intellectual craftsmanship"
Oct 5	Academic Integrity and Applying for Research Ethics	Tuhiwai Smith, "Research through imperial eyes" Walcott, "Sociology: Failed"
Oct 12	Thesis Proposal Presentations	No readings
Oct 19	Who Cares About Theory?	Sears, "Theory matters"
	Area Study Proposal Due	
Oct 26	Connecting theory and methodology	Sears, "But how do you know?" Ragin, excerpt from <i>What is a case?</i>

Date	Topic	Readings
Nov 2	Applying for Grad School and Scholarships	No readings
Nov 9	Fall Break	No readings
	REB Applications Due Nov 15	
Nov 16	Open	Becker, "Imagery"
Nov 23	Open	Becker, "Concepts"
	Area Study Paper 1 Due	
Nov 30	Chapter Discussion	No readings
	CGS Due Dec 1	
	Two Chapters Due Dec 1	
Jan 4	Welcome Back	Eco, "Writing the thesis"
Jan 11	Thesis Chapter Presentations	No readings
Jan 18	Timelines and Undergraduate Research Award	No readings
Jan 25	Data Analysis	Becker, "Freshman English for graduate students"
	Area Study Paper 2 Due	
Feb 1	Chapter Development	No readings
Feb 8	The Concluding Chapter	No readings

Date	Topic	Readings
Feb 15	How to Present Your Thesis	Anderson, "How to give a killer presentation"
	Submit First Draft of Thesis to Supervisor by Feb 20	
Feb 22	Winter Break	No readings
Mar 1	Editing Your Thesis	Becker, "Editing by ear"
	CCV Due	Gibbs, "Theory and practice of editing <i>New Yorker</i> articles"
Mar 8	Presentation Practice	No readings
	Drop Day is March 10	
Mar 15	Thesis Presentation Week	Date and time to be confirmed
	Submit Revised Thesis to Advisor for Grading by Mar 20	
Mar 22	Open	TBD
Apr 5	Conclusion	Eco, "Conclusions"
Apr 15	Submit Final Edited Copy to Chair for Grade Submission	

Additional Information

Drop Date

Students may drop this course, online in Banner, on or before **March 10, 2023**.

COVID-19

The 2022-2023 academic year is taking place during an exceptional period of human history. As the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, we may have to adjust the course assessment plan and/or delivery method with little or no notice. You may also have to stay home from class for various reasons related to COVID-19 (such as simply feeling ill). If this happens to you, please contact me so that we can discuss an alternative to your attendance grade for that class. Lastly, it is important that you take care of yourself by getting adequate amounts of sleep, and by taking appropriate mental health breaks. The university website on COVID-19 provides more information and links (<https://www.stfx.ca/coronavirus>).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As this course involves the production of written work, you should familiarize yourself with the standards for proper referencing of all cited materials, such as books, journal articles, newspaper articles, websites, and so on. For help with citation styles, I recommend visiting the Student Success Centre (<https://www.mystfx.ca/student-success/style-guides>).

Students that attempt to pass off someone else's work as their own (i.e., plagiarism) will be dealt with through the university policy on academic honesty. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 of the academic calendar, found at: <https://www2.mystfx.ca/registrar-office/academic-calendars>). Resources for avoiding plagiarism can be found on the library website (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/library/plagiarism>).

Writing Assistance

Despite the fact that this is a writing-intensive course, we will not be able to spend much time on the craft of writing. If you need assistance with your writing, I recommend booking an appointment with me or visiting the Student Success Centre (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/student-success/>).

Accommodations

If you have an injury, develop an illness, or encounter a personal crisis that will impact your progress in this course, please email me as soon as you are able. This will ensure that we find a way for you to complete the course. The Health and Counselling Centre is another resource available to you (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/health-and-counselling/>).

If you have any disabilities that require an accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, please speak to me as soon as possible so we can implement those accommodations. You may also want to contact the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/accessible-learning/tramble-centre-accessible-learning>).

Equity and Discrimination

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment free from discrimination or harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy which can be found at (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/equity/policies>). Please feel free to discuss with me any questions or concerns you have about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair of our Department, or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor (Megan Fogarty, mfogarty@stfx.ca).

Copyright

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Grade Scale

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			