

ARTSSCI 3CU3 / Alumni Experience Inquiry

2017-2018, Term 2

Instructor: Dr. Mat Savelli

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Office Hrs: T: 11-2pm, Th: 12-230pm

Class time: Tuesdays, 7-10pm, KTH B107

Course Description: When leaving university, graduates begin to see how their education might be applied within work and their lives more broadly. In the process, they must attend to both the ideals they have formed throughout their university life, as well as the practical demands of their career. Although idealism and pragmatism have typically been portrayed as dichotomous, this course encourages students to move that binary to assess the complex ways in which these philosophies play out in everyday life. Through dialogue with Artsci alumni, they will both gain exposure to the wide career possibilities open to Artsci graduates and develop an understanding of how an interdisciplinary education might shape responses to the demands of pragmatism and idealism.

Course Objectives: In completing the course, students should:

1. Gain a stronger understanding of how an interdisciplinary education can prepare them for their careers.
2. Develop a deeper understanding of how the demands of both idealism and pragmatism interact and play out within work settings.
3. Enter into debates regarding trends in career and lifestyle, learning to critically analyze the rigid division between career and life.
4. Enhance their ability to analyze and communicate the arguments and ideas from a wide variety of academic and non-academic disciplines, subfields, and mediums.

Required reading: Han Kang, *The Vegetarian* (at the bookstore).

All other readings are available on *Avenue to Learn*.

Jan 9: Introduction

Jan 16: Exploring Work, Life, Idealism, and Pragmatism [*Interviewees assigned*]

Reading: Zygmunt Bauman, excerpts from *The Art of Life*; Michael Hviid Jacobsen, "From Solid Modern Utopia to Liquid Modern Anti-Utopia? Tracing the Utopian Strand in the Sociology of Zygmunt Bauman;" Chris Hayes, "The Pragmatist."

Jan 23: Health & Medicine (Mat Wohlgemut)

Reading: Excerpts from Siddhartha Mukherjee, excerpts from *The Emperor of All Maladies*; Brendal et al. "The Price of a Gift: An Approach to Receiving Gifts from Patients in Psychiatric Practice."

Jan 30: Law & Human Rights Work (Cary Ferguson) [**Proposals Due**]

Reading: Michael M'Gonigle & Louise Takeda, "The Liberal Limits of Environmental Law."

Feb 6: Public Engagement (Heather Read)

Reading: Dave Eggers, Tom Scocca, Alexander Wells, and Malcolm Gladwell, curated discussion on Selling Out, Snark, and Smarm.

Feb 13: Education (Eleanor Alexander)

Reading: Parker Palmer, "The Heart of a Teacher" / Henry A. Giroux, "Public Intellectuals against the Neoliberal University."

Feb 20: READING WEEK

Feb 27: Arts (Jill Kooymans)

Reading: Han Kang, *The Vegetarian*

Mar 6: Business (Vasiliki Bednar)

Reading: Sheelah Kohlkatar, "Dark Factory" / Peter S Goodman, Sweden Adds Human Touch to a Robotic Future / *Ideas* podcast episode "Facebook, Google, Apple, and Amazon."

Mar 13: Environmentalism (Caitlin Allan) [**Essay due**]

Reading: Pushkala Prasad & Michael Elmes, "In the Name of the Practical: Unearthing the Hegemony of Pragmatics in the Discourse of Environmental Management" / Tim Newton, "Practical Idealism: An Oxymoron?" / Pushkala Prasad & Michael Elmes, "A Response to Tim Newton."

Mar 20: Civil Service & Government (Emily Groot)

Reading: Moser Jones, "Paternalism and Its Discontents: Motorcycle Helmet Laws, Libertarian Values, and Public Health" / excerpts from Michael Lipsky, *Street Level Bureaucracy*.

Mar 27: Career Fluidity (Amy Hondronicols)

Reading: Gary Greenberg, "In the Kingdom of the Unabomber."

Apr 3: Revisiting the Work/Life & Idealism/Pragmatism Divides [**Final Project Due**]

Reading: Yifat Kivetz & Tom R Tyler, "Tomorrow I'll Be Me."

Assignments:

Interviews with two alumni: 0%*

Paper Proposal (30 January): 20%

Discussion (ongoing): 20%

Major Essay (13 March): 35%

Final Project (3 April): 25%

Interviews: In the first class, each student will be assigned two alumni volunteers that they should interview by phone (or in person). Although there is no formal interview guide, students should discuss the alum's post-Artsci career, the extent to which the Artsci program prepared them for their work lives, and how they have navigated issues related to idealism and pragmatism (among other things!). Although this is a formal requirement for the course, please think of it as an opportunity to both build and reinforce the Artsci community, as well as a chance to gain insights into the possibilities provided by your education. These interviews should inform other aspects of the course assignments.

Proposal: Students must complete a 4 page proposal for their major essay. In this proposal, they should outline the research question they intend to investigate, explore the literature surrounding this topic (using at least 6 sources), and explain how their topic connects to the broader themes of the course. Proposals must include a bibliography.

Major Essay: In a 10-12 page paper, students should explore their own research question related to the themes of work, life, idealism, and pragmatism. Original research is not required for this assignment, but you may optionally include insights or commentary gleaned from your alumni interviewees. Your work should be grounded in a substantial degree of secondary literature, including academic and potentially non-academic sources.

Final Project: For their final projects, students must combine traditional academic work with a creative element. This project should in some way reflect upon their experience in the course, the knowledge they gained by communicating with alumni, and other components of the course (readings, the essay project, the co-facilitators' insights). The project may take any form, but must include both a short (3-4pages) formal written component and some sort of creative component (which could be written or non-written). The formal written component should act as an explanation/analysis of the creative component. All projects should be discussed with the instructor prior to completion.

Alumni Mentors: Eleanor Alexander, Caitlin Allan, Melissa Appleton, Neila Bazaracai, Vasiliki Bednar, Timothy Bourns, Robert Brookfield, Merrilee Brown, David Campbell, Janice Chan, Heather Cohen, Laura Collinson, Julie Compton, Laura Diachun, Sandra Duffey, Tasneem Essaj, Jon Farrow, Cary Ferguson, Zsuzsi Fodor, Emily Groot, Amy Hondronicols, Michelle Hudson, Aaron Jacobs, Caitlin Jago, Leanna Katz, Jill Kooymans, Alenia Kysela, Michael Law, Yang Lei, David Mackenzie, Erin Marchington, Tushar Mehta, Deirdre Mulcahy, Carita Ng, Carolyn Pecoskie, Kara O'Brien, Praven Pillay, Heather Read, Lyndall Schumann, Kerry Scott, Karen Shin, Nadia Stuewer, Jordan Thomson, Chioma Ume, Adira Winegust, Mat Wohlgemut, Peter Wyngaarden, Melissa Yuan-Innes

Policy Statements

Assignment Deadlines & Missed/Late Work:

Students are expected to hand in all assignments on the specified due dates. Late submissions will be subject to a penalty of 3% per day (including weekend days). Assignments submitted after the beginning of class on the due date will be counted as one day late. All assignments should be submitted as hard copies directly to class. Late assignments should be submitted to Shelley or Rebecca in LRW.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):

In the event of an absence, students should review and follow the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work." Please consult the MSAF statement on our website (<https://artsci.mcmaster.ca/forms-requests/>) and direct any questions or concerns to Shelley Anderson or Rebecca Bishop in the Arts & Science Program Office as appropriate.

McMaster Policy on Academic Integrity:

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>. The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2) Improper collaboration in group work. 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities:

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-

525-9140 ext. 28652 or email sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

Sustainable Written Work Submission Guidelines

The written work submission guidelines have been chosen to support the more sustainable use of paper, energy, and toner, and meet the Platinum standard of the Office of Sustainability; <http://www.mcmaster.ca/sustainability/>. All written work should be submitted in the following format: double-sided pages, reduced line spacing (1.5 lines), exclusion of title page, sans-serif font.

Email Contact and Student Responsibility Statement

Please Note: The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of students to check **their McMaster email** and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes. Announcements will be made in class and by using the course email distribution list.