

ARTSSCI 3CU3 / Alumni Experience Inquiry

2020-2021, Term 2

Instructor: Dr. Mat Savelli

Class time: Tuesdays, 11:30-12:30 on Zoom

Link: <https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/4578106386>

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Office Hrs: Tuesdays, 530-630pm on Zoom

Link: <https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/4578106386>

Course Description: When leaving university, graduates are confronted with a series of choices in relation to their work and life more broadly. In the process, they must attend to both the ideals they have formed throughout their university time, as well as the practical demands of their social life, family, and career. Although idealism and pragmatism have typically been portrayed as dichotomous, this course encourages students to move beyond that binary to assess the complex ways in which these philosophies guide decision making in everyday life. Through dialogue with Artsci alumni, students will gain exposure to the wide career paths and life courses open to Artsci graduates, and will 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 appreciation for how the demands of idealism and pragmatism interact and play out within work and life settings.
3. Enter into debates regarding trends in career and lifestyle, with particular attention to largescale economic change.
4. Critically analyze the rigid division between career and life.
5. Enhance their ability to analyze and communicate the arguments and ideas from a wide variety of academic and non-academic disciplines, subfields, and media.

Required reading:

- 1) Zygmunt Bauman, *The Art of Life* (available via the Campus Store)
- 2) Han Kang, *The Vegetarian* (available via the Campus Store)
- 3) All other readings are available on *Avenue to Learn*.

Jan 12: Introduction

Jan 19: Exploring Work, Life, Idealism, and Pragmatism [*Interviewees assigned*]

Reading: Bauman, "Introduction"

Jan 26: Exploring Work, Life, Idealism, and Pragmatism II

Reading: Bauman, "We, The Artists of Life" and "Afterword"

Feb 2: Medicine

Reading: The debate over EBM by Moer, Zachar, and Gupta in *Philosophy, Psychiatry, and Psychology*. [**Proposals Due**]

Feb 9: Government

Reading: Moser Jones, “Paternalism and Its Discontents: Motorcycle Helmet Laws, Libertarian Values, and Public Health”

Feb 16: READING WEEK

Feb 23: Family

Reading: Han Kang, *The Vegetarian*.

Mar 2: Business [Essay due]

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

Mar 9: The Human Sciences

Reading: Hacking, “Madness: Biological or Constructed” [**Major Essay Due**]

Mar 16: Social Services

Reading: Lipsky, “Street Level Bureaucracy”

Mar 23: Career Fluidity

Reading: Gary Greenberg, “In the Kingdom of the Unabomber”

Mar 30: Education

Reading: Parker Palmer, “The Heart of a Teacher”

April 6: What Next? Course Wrap Up

Reading: David Graeber, “On the Phenomenon of Bullshit Jobs: A Work Rant”

April 13: [**Final Project Due**]

Assignments:

Interviews with alumni: 0%*

Paper Proposal (2 February): 20%

Discussion (ongoing): 20%
Major Essay (9 March): 35%
Final Project (13 April): 25%

Interviews*: In the first class, each student will be assigned alumni volunteers that they should interview by phone or in person. Although there is no formal interview guide, students should discuss the alums' post-Artsci life path and career, the relationship between the Artsci program and 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 life possibilities provided by your education. These interviews will be used to inform other aspects of the course assignments, notably the final project. Students who do not contact their assigned alumni will not pass the course.

Proposal: Students must complete a 2 page proposal for their major essay on the course's key themes. In this proposal, they should outline the research question they intend to investigate for their major paper, explore the literature surrounding this topic (using at least 5 sources), and explain how their topic connects to the broader themes of the course. Proposals must include a bibliography.

Major Essay: In an 8-10 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, relating it to course discussions and themes. All projects should be discussed with the instructor prior to completion.

Policy Statements

Assignment Deadlines & Missed/Late Work:

Students are expected to hand in all assignments by 6pm EST to the dropbox on Avenue to Learn. Late submissions will be subject to a penalty of 3% per day (including weekend days). Assignments submitted after 6pm on the due date will be counted as one day late.

SENATE-APPROVED ADVISORY STATEMENTS

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. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., online search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ONLINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use online elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses online elements will be deemed consent to

this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

NOTES FOR ALL ARTS & SCIENCE COURSES

1. Some of the statements above refer to a “Faculty Office”; please note that the Arts & Science Program Office serves in this capacity.
2. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email regularly. Announcements will be made in class, via A2L, and/or via the course email distribution list <d-as3CU3@mcmaster.ca>.