

American Studies 4420E: 2016-17

Independent Thesis in American Studies

Course Description & Expectations

Description:

The subject for the independent thesis will be selected by students in consultation with an instructor of their choice willing to supervise the thesis. This course will normally be open to fourth-year honors students who have achieved an average of at least 80% in their third year of the American Studies Program.

Course Requirements:

American Studies 4420E is an independent thesis course. There are no scheduled lectures. Students will be expected to complete a major research paper (approx 40-50 pages in length) on an approved topic, in consultation with and under the supervision of a faculty member who is affiliated with the Program in American Studies. If there is a specific faculty member you would like to work with, it is suggested that you contact them as early as possible in September to arrange an initial meeting to discuss your proposed topic. A complete list of all American Studies faculty members can be found on the American Studies website: http://americanstudies.uwo.ca/people/faculty_affiliates.html. You may also consult an instructor who does not appear on this list. If you need assistance finding an appropriate supervisor, please contact one of the American Studies Program co-directors:

- Professor Laurel Shire (lshire@uwo.ca)
- Professor Aldona Sendzikas (asendzi2@uwo.ca)

Students are expected to hand in a written thesis proposal to their supervisor by **November 1, 2016**.

This proposal should provide the following information:

1. An outline of the central argument
2. A breakdown of sections
3. A working bibliography consisting of primary and secondary sources

You will arrange to meet with your thesis supervisor on a regular basis throughout the year to discuss your progress and receive guidance where necessary.

Upon completion, please **submit two paper copies and one electronic copy** of your completed thesis to Rebecca Dashford, American Studies Undergraduate Program Administrator (Lawson Hall, Room 2201), e-mail rdashfo@uwo.ca, on or before the due date. Your paper will be graded by your supervisor and a second reader. The two grades will be averaged together to produce your final grade in the

course. If the discrepancy between the two grades is greater than 10%, a third marker will be asked to grade the paper and the three grades will be averaged for the final grade.

The research paper will be due on **April 30, 2017**.