

# PACS 623: Directed Readings Course

## Course Syllabus and Procedures

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This reading course gives students space to study literature that explores the full theoretical and contemporary scope of readings pertaining to a proposed field of research. These readings will be in conjunction with coursework. Students must seek out the approval of a faculty member who is willing to supervise them and have the approval of the department chair. Students must write a topic proposal and outline of coursework prior to obtaining permission to enroll in the course.

### **PURPOSE OF COURSE**

This course allows students to broaden their scope of research into fields that pertain to Peace and Conflict Studies and not be confined by the listed course topics MPACS offers.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To complete the requirements for PACS 623, a student must:

1. Be a registered MPACS student past their first term of study.
2. Compose a **directed readings proposal** and submit to a PACS faculty member for review *before the first week of classes*. Proposals should include:
  - a. PART I: RATIONALE (4-5 pages, double-spaced, regular font)
    - i. Create a working title for the term research paper.
    - ii. Provide a detailed description of the topic you will explore.
    - iii. Describe how this topic relates to PACS and why it interests you.
    - iv. Explain why a directed readings approach to this topic is helpful or necessary.
    - v. Describe any preparatory work you have done for this project.
      1. Do you have any background in this area or in related areas?
      2. How much reading have you already done to prepare for the current directed readings project?
    - vi. State 4-5 specific learning objectives for this project.
  - b. PART II: PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY
    - i. List sources you have already identified for this project.
    - ii. Be sure to include a proper mix of journal articles and books
3. Develop a calendar of deadlines for your directed reading course with your faculty supervisor for the course components.
4. Course Assignments:

Option 1:

  - a) Write one or more **literature review** of primary texts, totalling 10-15 pages in length.
  - b) Write a **research paper**. This paper should be 20-25 pages in length, and of publishable quality.

Option 2:

- a) Write a series of written assignments totaling 35-40 pages, as agreed upon by the faculty supervisor.

5. In addition to the details cited above, individual faculty members may have other requirements that they will negotiate with students.

Example Evaluation

1. Meeting preparation and engagement (10%)
2. Bibliography for term paper (10%)
3. Proposal for research paper (4-5 page layout) (15%)
4. Literature review of primary texts (8-10 pages) (15% each=30%)
5. Term Research Paper (20-25 pages) (35%)

*\*Department Consent Required*