

OLive 01

ACADEMIC SEMINAR

OLive-Plus 2019

Seminar Leader: Daniela Craciun

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Credits: 6 ECTS, 3 U.S. credits

Dates: September 6, 2019 - January 24, 2020

Number of sessions: 5 (Fridays, 14:00 - 15:30, on Week 1, 7, 10, 15, & Friday, 14:00 - 17:00, on Week 18)

Office Hours: Mondays, 15:15 - 17:15 & Wednesdays, 14:00 - 15:30 (0.5 hours/student weekly. The assigned slot will be communicated by the Academic Advisor to each student)

Course Description

This course runs in conjunction with regular consultations with the Academic Advisor.

The aims of the Academic Seminar are to (1) develop students' capstone projects through discussions and consultations with the Academic Advisor, (2) provide students with a forum for engaging with each other and with the Bard community on academic issues and questions that are of interest to them. Following an initial session led by Bard and OLive faculty, students will team up in pairs and organise sessions on issues that are of interest to them with assistance from the Academic Advisor.

The capstone project should build on your final assignment of your tutorial but should not be identical to this. You should discuss how to proceed with the Academic Advisor, the aim is for you to creatively explore other aspects of the topic of your final assignment that can be brought out through different types of assignments.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should have:

1. Experience in organising seminars
2. A critical overview of their research topics
3. Ability to critically engage with peers on different topics

Requirements

This is a mandatory course for OLive-Plus students. Students will participate in all seminars and will lead one seminar each.

The course will be assessed through a combination of assignments which are designed to achieve the overall goals and learning outcomes of the course.

Assignment	Length	Weight	Deadline
Participation in class and preparation for class	Throughout the semester	30%	
Capstone project prospectus	1000 words	30%	Week 15 (16 to 22 December, 2019)
Capstone project presentation		40%	Week 18 (24 January, 2020)

Participation in class: You are expected to attend all the classes, prepare the required reading for each class, and actively participate in class discussions. You will be assessed on the quality and quantity of your contributions. The highest grades for participation will be awarded to those who make valuable contributions to class discussions and demonstrate an understanding of and engagement with the readings. Attending without contributing to group work or class discussions will only earn you a minimum pass..

Capstone project prospectus: You should submit a brief overview of the capstone project which you will work on with your tutor and in consultation with the Academic Advisor. This should outline what the project is about and what your key arguments will be. Take note also of how the project connects to your future MA study.

Capstone project presentation: You are expected to give a 15-minute presentation of your capstone project.

Academic Integrity

OLLive-Plus and Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the relevant sections dealing with student conduct in the Bard College Berlin Handbook.

Attendance

You are expected to attend ALL classes. In cases of absence caused by illness, students must inform their instructor and the Program Director in advance of the scheduled class. Students are expected to make up for any work missed in arrangement with their instructor.

Assessment

This is a course for grade. Taken together with consultations with the academic advisor, this is 6-credit course.

Requirements for successful completion of the course are: preparation for classes, attendance regular, active participation; capstone project prospectus; presentation of capstone project.

Evaluation: Seminar preparation and participation: 30%; capstone project prospectus: 30%; presentation of research: 40%

Schedule

Session 1. Fri, Sep. 6, 2019. (Prof. Kerry Brystrom, Dr. Daniela Craciun & Prof. Prem Kumar Rajaram)

The University and the Liberal Arts

The aim of this session is to prep students ahead of a Bard seminar on the University and the Liberal Arts to be held on 7 September. We will explore questions about the politics of knowledge production, the abiding relevance of a liberal arts curriculum to the modern world, and the social purposes of the university.

Mandatory Readings Session 1

Botstein, Leon (2018). 'Redeeming the Liberal Arts'. In *Association of American Colleges and Universities* blog. <https://www.aacu.org/liberaleducation/2018/fall/botstein>

Connell, Raewyn (2019). 'Universities' Globalness is Unequal and Undemocratic'. In *University World News*. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20190726150118670>

Parker, Stephen (2016). 'How Universities Make Inequality Worse'. In *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/how-universities-make-inequality-worse-55155>

Parker, Stephen (2016). 'How Universities Can Redress Inequality'. In *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/how-universities-can-redress-inequality-55158>

Sessions 2 to 4 are student led.

Session 2. Fri, Oct. 18, 2019

Session 3. Fri, Nov. 15, 2019

Session 4. Fri, Dec. 20, 2019

Student-led sessions

Students will work in pairs to organise a seminar on a topic that is of interest to them. Think about an issue or a problem that you care about or one that you wish to know more about and one that is also connected to your final assignment. You should think about how the seminar could be organised in ways to help you think about your final assignment and develop a capstone project.. Consider how this topic could be examined from different angles, by yourself and perhaps with invited speakers (the seminar leader will help you identify speakers). Your session could be in the form of a 'roundtable' or a more traditional talk. You should feel free to speak or simply to chair and organise and ask questions of the speaker and your fellow students. You should see this as an opportunity to raise awareness

about a topic that you care about and that is important to you.

These sessions will be open to other Bard College students and faculty.

Session 5. Fri, Jan. 24, 2020.

Capstone Project presentations

In the last session of the Academic Seminar, you will present your Capstone Project, developed in your tutorials, to your fellow students, and OLLive and Bard faculty. Further details about the presentation will be communicated to you by your tutor and Academic Advisor.