

## IDP4U1- Honours Thesis

### Course Rationale:

An essential component of post-secondary preparation is the ability to write lucidly, succinctly and effectively. For this course, the assumption is that the students enter with the ability to articulate their ideas in essay form. This course allows students the opportunity to appreciate and master a sustained and critical writing style – engaging and challenging assumptions, synthesizing the relevant literature, examining the impact of such literature, collecting primary research and suggesting alternative approaches and conclusions.

### Prerequisite:

This course is to be taken in conjunction with **ONE** of the following courses:

**CPW4U:** Canadian and World Politics

**CHY4U:** World History – The West and the World

**CIA4U:** Economic Issues

**CGW4U:** Canadian and World Issues

**HSB4M:** Challenge and change in Society

The student will pursue a topic or issue they found particularly interesting in one of the courses listed above (you will be scheduled for first semester in one of these courses). IDP4U (in the second semester) then allows the students to thoroughly research an extended paper (approximately 20 pages; 5000-6000 words) that tackles their topic in an extended and meaningful manner.

### Assessment and Evaluation:

Your midterm and final grades will be determined by your level of performance on a number of activities that build research, writing and critical analysis skills. Each of the activities you complete in this course will be directly tied to the following achievement areas:

- Knowledge and Understanding (evaluation of your knowledge of facts and terms and understanding of concepts and theories)
- Thinking/Inquiry (evaluation of your critical and creative thinking and inquiry skills)
- Communication (evaluation of your ability to communicate information and ideas in a variety of ways)
- Application (evaluation of your ability to transfer ideas, draw conclusions, make predictions, and make connections)

## **70% COURSE WORK**

Writing an extensive paper is a rigorous process. This course, alongside providing the knowledge and skills to conduct extensive research will help students divide the project into manageable parts. The final product will be the result of a series of steps (i.e. abstracts, literature reviews, debates, topic proposal, research, thesis, conferencing, drafting / editing, preliminary oral defence etc.) that allow the student ample opportunity to submit their best work possible.

### **Assessment Activities:**

Examining Sources  
Evaluating Sources Assignment  
Topic Selection  
Annotated Bibliography  
Hypothesis and Research Questions  
Research Notes  
Thesis Formation  
Preliminary Defences  
Full Paper Outline  
Peer Editing Checklist  
In-class Oral Defence  
Research Topic - Breeze Presentation  
Website Postings and Information Database

## **SUMMATIVE (30%)**

The summative evaluation will take the form of two parts:

- 1) Final Paper (20%): 20-24 page paper (5000 – 6000 words) formal argumentative essay with citations, primary evidence and a formal bibliography
- 2) Panel Oral Defense (10%) : 15 minute oral defense in which students will illustrate the validity of their research and thesis and answer questions in front of a panel (instructors, department heads etc.)