

American Studies Graduate Colloquium Series

Guidelines and Expectations

Overview

As part of their final grade for the Master's Research Project (American Studies 9075), each student will present their research to date at one of three Graduate Colloquia. MRP Supervisors are invited to attend all sessions, but are only required to attend their own student's presentation. **Students will be expected to attend every session.** At least one member of the CAS Graduate Committee will be present at each session. Students are welcome to invite family members to their presentation. Light refreshments will be available at each session.

Format and Guidelines

The format will mimic a standard academic conference. Each student will be given approximately 30 minutes for presentation and questions combined. Students should prepare an oral presentation of about 20 minutes in length that describes their research project, their findings, and their conclusions to date. This will be followed by 10 minutes of questions from the audience.

The Committee recognizes that the MRPs are still works in progress. It is fine to acknowledge this and even to use the colloquium as a way of getting feedback or advice on how to complete the project. Still, each talk should outline a clear research question and argument and give a sense of what the research to date has found.

Time limits will be enforced! Students should not try to squeeze their entire MRP into a 20 minute talk. Instead, they should describe the big questions they are asking, the arguments they are making, and make a case for the significance of the project, illustrated or illuminated by a few specific points or examples from their research.

Students should probably speak from notes but are discouraged from writing out and then reading the entire text of their talk. PowerPoint slides or other audiovisual material are welcome—though one should always be prepared to do without such technology in the (surprisingly common) event that it fails.

Grading

Presentations will be graded by the student's MRP Supervisor (or the Graduate Committee if Supervisor is unable to attend.) Content, presentation, and ability to respond to questions will all be assessed.

The presentation is worth 20% of the final MRP grade.