

## Instructor

- David Romney
- 734 KMBL
- Office hours W 1:45-3pm, Th 9-10:15am, and F 1:45-2:45pm
- Office phone 801-422-0364

## Course Purpose

This course will push students to utilize what they have learned in their undergraduate career to conduct significant research and produce an article of publishable-quality in a good academic journal. The assignments are designed to mentor students through this process; the readings and class discussions are designed to provide the necessary background in the study of ethnicity, conflict, and conflict resolution to help students identify pertinent research questions. Thus, of necessity, this course (like all capstone courses) will require a large amount of reading, for which students will be held accountable. At the end of the course, we will simulate a professional academic conference where students will gain experience presenting their work.

Because many BYU students have excellent foreign language abilities, I encourage all students to include foreign language sources where appropriate and relevant in the writing assignments for this course. If you're not sure how to evaluate foreign language sources, please stop by office hours and discuss this with me. Due to requirements in the MESA Major, MESA students are required to reference at least 2 Arabic-language sources in their final paper.

## Expectations and Policies

Students are expected to attend in-person and wear a mask, until university policy changes. However, because I don't want to incentivize you to come in sick, I am allowing all students four days of virtual attendance without penalty. Classes will be recorded on Zoom, and you can watch either live or later at your convenience. If you are not sick, please come in-person. Note that Zoom attendance is NOT counted toward your attendance grade—if you exceed the four days allowed, additional days on Zoom will count as an absence. If there are circumstances that you feel warrant virtual attendance for more than four sessions, please be in contact with me.

Late assignments will automatically be given a 25% deduction, and I will not accept any late assignments past December 13th at 11:59pm. However, both of these policies can have exceptions if there are extenuating circumstances or university-approved absences. If you have something you think qualifies, please let me know so that we can work something out.

Some students seek advance feedback on assignments. I am willing to provide feedback in advance for all assignments except the readings commentaries. If you would like advance feedback, you need to submit a draft of the assignment to me at least a week in advance of the deadline. This advance feedback would be fairly brief, i.e. a couple of sentences or a paragraph, and if anything of general importance comes up in my feedback I would communicate it to the class as a whole.

I am okay with the use of laptops during class, but please turn phones/tablets/laptops to the "do not disturb" setting during class.

Note that all aspects of this syllabus are subject to change as the semester progresses.

## Materials

All readings will be provided on Canvas.

## Assignments

You will have four different types of assignments in this course: Attendance (115 points), Readings Commentaries (300 points), Research Paper (600 points), and Presentation (150 points). More detail on each can be found in the "Assignments" tab on Canvas. Note that your four lowest scores for readings commentaries are dropped automatically.

## Grading

Grading will be done on the university's standard grading scale.

I will grade your writing assignments and exams based on the standards you will be expected to meet as a professional or academic following your graduation. Only in this way can I help your writing and analytical skills improve. To compensate for this grading strategy, the course will be graded on a modified curve, curving student grades UP at the end of the class; I NEVER curve down.

To calculate final grades, I will add student point totals together, and then put them in a distribution. I will then identify natural breaks between students and assign grades accordingly. Thus, I do not assign a set number or percentage of As, Bs, and Cs, and the distribution of grades varies from semester to semester. I will show the grade distribution periodically during class.

## University Policies

### Honor Code

In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. Violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Adherence demonstrates respect for yourself and others and ensures an effective learning and working environment. It is the university's expectation, and every instructor's expectation in class, that each student will abide by all Honor Code standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

### Preventing & Responding to Sexual Misconduct

Brigham Young University prohibits all forms of sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking on the basis of sex—by its personnel and students and in all its education programs or activities. University policy requires all faculty members to promptly report incidents of sexual harassment that come to their attention in any way and encourages reports by students who experience or become aware of sexual harassment. Incidents should be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [t9coordinator@byu.edu](mailto:t9coordinator@byu.edu) or (801) 422-8692 or 1085 WSC. Reports may also be submitted online at <https://titleix.byu.edu/report> or 1-888-238-1062 (24-hours a day). BYU offers a number of resources and services for those affected by sexual harassment, including the university's confidential Sexual Assault Survivor Advocate. Additional information about sexual harassment, the university's Sexual Harassment Policy, reporting requirements, and resources can be found in the University Catalog, by visiting <http://titleix.byu.edu>, or by contacting the university's Title IX Coordinator.

### Student Disability

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. A disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Whether an impairment is substantially limiting depends on its nature and severity, its duration or expected duration, and its permanent or expected permanent or long-term impact. Examples include vision or hearing impairments, physical disabilities, chronic illnesses, emotional disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety), learning disorders, and attention disorders (e.g., ADHD). If you have a disability which impairs your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (UAC), 2170 WSC or 801-422-2767 to request a reasonable accommodation. The UAC can also assess students for learning, attention, and emotional concerns. If you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, please contact the Equal Opportunity Office at 801-422-5895, [eo\\_manager@byu.edu](mailto:eo_manager@byu.edu), or visit <https://hrs.byu.edu/equal-opportunity> for help.

### Mental Health

Mental health concerns and stressful life events can affect students' academic performance and quality of life. BYU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS, 1500 WSC, 801-422-3035, [caps.byu.edu](http://caps.byu.edu)) provides individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as stress management services. These services are confidential and are provided by the university at no cost for full-time students. For general information please visit <https://caps.byu.edu>; for more immediate concerns please visit <http://help.byu.edu> ☰.

### Respectful Environment

"Sadly, from time to time, we do hear reports of those who are at best insensitive and at worst insulting in their comments to and about others... We hear derogatory and sometimes even defamatory comments about those with different political, athletic, or ethnic views or experiences. Such behavior is completely out of place at BYU, and I enlist the aid of all to monitor carefully and, if necessary, correct any such that might occur here, however inadvertent or unintentional. "I worry particularly about demeaning comments made about the career or major choices of women or men either directly or about members of the BYU community generally. We must remember that personal agency is a fundamental principle and that none of us has the right or option to criticize the lawful choices of another." President Cecil O. Samuelson, Annual University Conference, August 24, 2010 "Occasionally, we ... hear reports that our female faculty feel disrespected, especially by students, for choosing to work at BYU, even though each one has been approved by the BYU Board of Trustees. Brothers and sisters, these things ought not to be. Not here. Not at a university that shares a constitution with the School of the Prophets." Vice President John S. Tanner, Annual University Conference, August 24, 2010

### Plagiarism

Intentional plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft that violates widely recognized principles of academic integrity as well as the Honor Code. Such plagiarism may subject the student to appropriate disciplinary action administered through the university Honor Code Office, in addition to academic sanctions that may be applied by an instructor. Inadvertent plagiarism, which may not be a violation of the Honor Code, is nevertheless a form of intellectual carelessness that is unacceptable in the academic community. Plagiarism of any kind is completely contrary to the established practices of higher education where all members of the university are expected to acknowledge the original intellectual work of others that is included in their own work. In some cases, plagiarism may also involve violations of copyright law. Intentional Plagiarism-Intentional plagiarism is the deliberate act of representing the words, ideas, or data of another as one's own without providing proper attribution to the author through quotation, reference, or footnote. Inadvertent Plagiarism-Inadvertent plagiarism involves the inappropriate, but non-deliberate, use of another's words, ideas, or data without proper attribution. Inadvertent plagiarism usually results from an ignorant failure to follow established rules for documenting sources or from simply not being sufficiently careful in research and writing. Although not a violation of the Honor Code,

inadvertent plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct for which an instructor can impose appropriate academic sanctions. Students who are in doubt as to whether they are providing proper attribution have the responsibility to consult with their instructor and obtain guidance. Examples of plagiarism include: Direct Plagiarism-The verbatim copying of an original source without acknowledging the source. Paraphrased Plagiarism-The paraphrasing, without acknowledgement, of ideas from another that the reader might mistake for the author's own. Plagiarism Mosaic-The borrowing of words, ideas, or data from an original source and blending this original material with one's own without acknowledging the source. Insufficient Acknowledgement-The partial or incomplete attribution of words, ideas, or data from an original source. Plagiarism may occur with respect to unpublished as well as published material. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own individual work without proper attribution is a serious form of plagiarism.

#### Inappropriate Use of Course Materials

All course materials (e.g., outlines, handouts, syllabi, exams, quizzes, PowerPoint presentations, lectures, audio and video recordings, etc.) are proprietary. Students are prohibited from posting or selling any such course materials without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. To do so is a violation of the Brigham Young University Honor Code.

#### Academic Honesty

The first injunction of the Honor Code is the call to "be honest." Students come to the university not only to improve their minds, gain knowledge, and develop skills that will assist them in their life's work, but also to build character. "President David O. McKay taught that character is the highest aim of education" (The Aims of a BYU Education, p.6). It is the purpose of the BYU Academic Honesty Policy to assist in fulfilling that aim. BYU students should seek to be totally honest in their dealings with others. They should complete their own work and be evaluated based upon that work. They should avoid academic dishonesty and misconduct in all its forms, including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, cheating, and other academic misconduct.