

Major Research Paper (MRP)

Guidelines

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SOCIAL & POLITICAL THOUGHT YORK UNIVERSITY

The MA Major Research Paper (MRP) is a designated paper on texts, ideas, or themes relevant to the critical study of social and political thought. The MRP is written and assessed following the completion of the coursework requirement.

The MRP represents a level of academic engagement superior to that of a course paper. It should demonstrate knowledge of the concepts, norms, and debates within relevant disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary contexts. It should also attempt an intervention commensurate in ambition and sophistication with that of a full-length scholarly article or chapter.

The MRP is a demanding exercise and is evaluated accordingly. Per the decision of the Executive Committee (May 25, 1976), the MRP ought to range between roughly 50 and 60 pages, double-spaced, including an extensive bibliography.

With the supervisor's approval, the MRP can extend or adapt course paper(s). However, the MRP ought to be distinct. The same work, unrevised, cannot count as both a course paper and the MRP.

The MRP is evaluated by two readers: the Supervisor and the committee member or second reader. Both readers must be appointed to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and the Supervisor must be appointed to the Graduate Program in Social and Political Thought. Guidelines for the submission and defense (Oral Examination) of the MRP may be found on the program's website.

Research Ethics

Students whose research directly engages research participants must obtain approval from the [York University Research Ethics Board](#). They are encouraged to consult with the Graduate Program Director and the Graduate Program Administrator as early as possible, given the large volume of requests processed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Office of Research Ethics.