

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**

**CHANGE REQUEST REPORT**

Change Request Tracking Number: 2018-SOC-6541

Title of Change Request: SOCJ: Master's Thesis

Status of Change Request: In Workflow

Change Request can't be split

**CHANGE REQUEST CONTENTS**

| #  | Type       | Title           |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 1. | New Course | Master's Thesis |

**CHANGE REQUEST HISTORY**

| Workflow Stage  | Action Type | Action Taken By   | Change Made | Action Rationale  | Date                 |
|---|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---|----------------------|
| Initiator   | Approved    | Kristin Burnett   | No          | Submitted to workflow   | 02/28/2018, 08:06 PM |
| Submission Review (Academic & Curriculum Development Coordinator) | Relegated   | Submission Review | Yes         | Additional Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities needs to be removed from the workflow | 03/01/2018, 09:05 AM |
| Initiator   | Approved    | Kristin Burnett   | No          | Additional Dean removed   | 03/01/2018, 09:06 AM |
| Submission Review (Academic & Curriculum Development Coordinator) | Approved    | Submission Review | Yes         | Okay to move forward in the workflow  | 03/01/2018, 09:07 AM |

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AUDIT TRAIL**

None.

**CHANGE REQUEST COMMENTS**

| Date                 | User            | Change Request Comment  |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| 02/28/2018, 08:06 PM | Kristin Burnett | In conjunction with the program change to add a thesis option to the MA in Social Justice Studies, we need a placeholder for that option. |

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|----|------------|-----------------|
| 1. | New Course | Master's Thesis |
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**Justification**

In conjunction with the program change to add a thesis option to the MA in Social Justice Studies, we need a placeholder for that option.

**COURSE DETAILS**

NEW COURSE FORM - The following is information that will be displayed in the University Calendar

|   |  |
|---|--|
| What is the new Course Code? (provided by Academic & Curriculum Development Coordinator): | Social Justice 5901 The code is the 'subject' plus the course number (e.g. "Biology 1110").                                    |
| Title of New Course:  | Master's Thesis  |
| Course Description:   | The supervised research and writing of a thesis approximately 25,000 to 35,000 words in length.                                |
| Credit Weight of this Course:   | 2.5 Example 0.25, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 etc  |
| Offering (Hours of instruction):  | Example 3-0  |
| List any prerequisites for this course here:  | Students taking the thesis option, except for exceptional circumstances, must have an 80% average for their last five courses. |
| What is the Grade Scheme?:  | Pass/Fail  |
| Is this a Special Topics course?:   |  |
| Is this course cross listed with another? If so, enter the other course code here:        |  |
| Course Classification(s):   |  |

The following is information for Committee Review

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Faculty or Institution Unit:  | • Lakehead University  |
| Calendar Start Term. When this change should be displayed in the Calendar:                | 2019-20  |
| Information for Timetable: When will this be first offered?:                              | 2019 Winter  |
| Calendar End Term. When is the last calendar year this should be displayed?:              | No Specified End Date Use No Specified End date unless you are removing it from the calendar.  |
| Academic Level:   | Graduate   |
| Is this a required course, or an elective?:   | Elective   |
| What is the pedagogical rationale for this request? Why are you submitting this request?: | A number of students have approached me and other faculty affiliated with SJS regarding the possibility of doing a thesis. The current research project option is short (50 pages), worth 1FCE, and normally completed during the second |

year of the program. The opportunity to pursue a more sustained research project over a longer period of time will address one of the most pressing and significant challenges of undertaking community based research: the time required to properly engage with communities and organizations so that research objectives address the needs and interests of those communities with which we work. The pedagogical rationale for the thesis option: (a) will allow for students to conduct a more sustained research project; (b) will allow for the development of community based research projects that are informed by community objectives and needs and designed to build local capacity. Developing such relationships with communities is extremely time consuming, especially those built with First Nations and Indigenous organizations. A thesis option will allow more time for those relationships to develop appropriately and to be rooted in trust and respect. In particular, the 0.5 FCE of the thesis option that will begin in the first year of the program during the second semester, permits students to begin developing research questions/goals with community members and organizations early. Thus, creating the potential for students to conduct research over the summer and into the fall with thesis writing and editing taking place during the second year of the program. (c) will demonstrate advanced skills in developing and carrying out independent scholarly research; (d) will facilitate in the development of HQP. A thesis will enable students to further cultivate and hone critical research/writing skills that will serve them at the doctoral level and help build capacity in First Nations, communities, and not for profit organizations. (e) will help with the recruitment and retention of outstanding graduate students and strengthen the University's graduate programming and training of highly-qualified personnel (HQP) (f) will attract research funds from federal agencies; and (g) will support Lakehead University's strategic research goals for the region and beyond. The thesis option will capitalize upon existing strengths at the university. A large number of faculty members already work in diverse research areas with focus on social justice and have a successful record of applying for and receiving external funding. A priority of SSHRC is the training of HQP and thus the ability of students to carry out more sustained research project will be mutually beneficial. The development of a thesis option also aligns with the broader objectives of the SJS program: (a) to provide an opportunity for students to specialize in social justice studies across the curriculum; (b) to develop research in social justice studies at Lakehead University as per the academic plan; (c) to provide students opportunities for hands-on advocacy work through partnerships and placements with social justice based organizations in the community; (d) to foster links between the creative arts and social justice and to provide opportunities for students to use the creative arts to promote social change; (e) to provide a foundation for students to pursue doctoral studies in disciplines related to social justice; (f) to foster the scholarly skills and independent research abilities of students in the program through advanced courses, research, and research project completion; (g) to facilitate the training of highly qualified personnel (HQPs) through coursework, projects and work as research assistants with highly qualified faculty members. For example, is this change required for

members, for example, as they change requests for accreditation?

**Learning Outcomes:** A number of students have approached me and other faculty affiliated with SJS regarding the possibility of doing a thesis. The current research project option is short (50 pages), worth 1FCE, and normally completed during the second year of the program. The opportunity to pursue a more sustained research project over a longer period of time will address one of the most pressing and significant challenges of undertaking community based research: the time required to properly engage with communities and organizations so that research objectives address the needs and interests of those communities with which we work. The pedagogical rationale for the thesis option: (a) will allow for students to conduct a more sustained research project; (b) will allow for the development of community based research projects that are informed by community objectives and needs and designed to build local capacity. Developing such relationships with communities is extremely time consuming, especially those built with First Nations and Indigenous organizations. A thesis option will allow more time for those relationships to develop appropriately and to be rooted in trust and respect. In particular, the 0.5 FCE of the thesis option that will begin in the first year of the program during the second semester, permits students to begin developing research questions/goals with community members and organizations early. Thus, creating the potential for students to conduct research over the summer and into the fall with thesis writing and editing taking place during the second year of the program. (c) will demonstrate advanced skills in developing and carrying out independent scholarly research; (d) will facilitate in the development of HQP. A thesis will enable students to further cultivate and hone critical research/writing skills that will serve them at the doctoral level and help build capacity in First Nations, communities, and not for profit organizations. (e) will help with the recruitment and retention of outstanding graduate students and strengthen the University's graduate programming and training of highly-qualified personnel (HQP) (f) will attract research funds from federal agencies; and (g) will support Lakehead University's strategic research goals for the region and beyond. The thesis option will capitalize upon existing strengths at the university. A large number of faculty members already work in diverse research areas with focus on social justice and have a successful record of applying for and receiving external funding. A priority of SSHRC is the training of HQP and thus the ability of students to carry out more sustained research project will be mutually beneficial. The development of a thesis option also aligns with the broader objectives of the SJS program: (a) to provide an opportunity for students to specialize in social justice studies across the curriculum; (b) to develop research in social justice studies at Lakehead University as per the academic plan; (c) to provide students opportunities for hands-on advocacy work through partnerships and placements with social justice based organizations in the community; (d) to foster links between the creative arts and social justice and to provide opportunities for students to use the creative arts to promote social change; (e) to provide a foundation for students to pursue doctoral studies in disciplines related to social justice; (f) to foster

develop an discipline related to social justice; (e) to develop the scholarly skills and independent research abilities of students in the program through advanced courses, research, and research project completion; (g) to facilitate the training of highly qualified personnel (HQP) through coursework, projects and work as research assistants with highly qualified faculty members;

Associated Changes - List all other requests that are associate with this change (enter request number or title):

2018-SOC-6539 - addition of thesis option to Social Justice program

The following is information for Senate Budget Committee Consideration

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | NOTE: Complete each section and provide full explanations for both "yes" and "no" answers. This will not be displayed in the calendar but will be used by the Senate Budget Committee when considering approval of this proposal. The creator of this proposal may be asked to attend a committee meeting to discuss this proposal. Contact the Chair of the Senate Budget Committee if you wish to discuss any of the questions below.  |
| Will this request impact student enrolment in another program within the same faculty/unit?:           | We do not foresee the addition of a thesis option impacting enrollment in another program within the faculty of Social Science and Humanities. Also students have the option of doing a Social Justice specialization in a cognate unit and the opportunity to do a thesis will only increase the attractiveness of all programs and options within the faculty.   |
| Will this request impact student enrolment in another program in a different faculty/unit?:            | We do not foresee the addition of a thesis option impacting enrollment in another faculty.   |
| Will additional resources be required (space, staff, equipment, etc)?:                                 | The proposed changes will not require resources that are above and beyond the resources currently needed by the new SJS program.   |
| How will this impact existing teaching loads within this faculty/unit?:                                | The provision of a thesis option will reduce the number of courses that students are required to take. As it currently operates, SJS is a course heavy degree (4.0 FCEs). Even those students enrolled in the research/creative/practicum streams are still required to take 3.0 FCEs. The addition of a thesis option would reduce the course requirement to 1.5 FCES with the thesis being equivalent to 2.5FCEs. Decreasing the number of courses students are required to take will reduce the burden on the courses offered by other departments with extant graduate programs. |
| What is the impact on the demand for teaching support services (library, computers, staff, etc)? :     | This proposed change will have an impact on library/research services but no different than the extant services available to the SJS program as per the original proposal.   |
| Will this course require outside support? If yes, please outline the amount and timing of the funding: | All of our faculty see and make connections between their own research and their teaching/supervision. Most of the affiliated faculty are external grants-holders. Our proposed program shares with many graduate programs with none of the current  |

and timing of the funding: change, like many graduate programs, will rely on the support of faculty to facilitate the research of students. We will also work diligently to ensure that SJS students are supported in the writing of scholarships/grants.













