

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Diana Branduse
Title of clinic:	It Reads Like A Novel: The Role of Fiction in the Modern Curriculum
Number of students:	6-8
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	GED (approved by Dr. Brandon Zicha)
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	None

Research context

The main goals of the research clinic are centered on 3 steps:

1. Exploring the interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary scholarly literature on the use of fiction in modern curricula (both in liberal arts and sciences programs and in more traditionally disciplinary ones). This involves collecting relevant academic and non-academic literature on the role of fiction in supporting certain social or cultural processes. It also involves collecting relevant works within educational studies on how fiction has been incorporated in non-fiction courses or curricula and the results of such experiments. The goal here is to produce a thorough, comprehensive, and critical literature review of what is available out there, accompanied by a readily available database of this literature.
2. Exploring existing works on the use of fiction and literary techniques in developing certain skills among undergraduate students. For example, I am particularly interested in the uses of fiction to discuss and debate contested concepts (such as political corruption) or in developing communication skills over difficult topics or in overcoming self-censorship.
3. Exploring existing teaching innovations that rely on the use of fiction in the classroom and producing a database of particular techniques, simulations, exercises, innovations that could provide a useful guide for someone willing to use fiction as a teaching method.

Overall, the aim is to contribute to both research and curriculum development (at LUC/GED and beyond) in respect to the role of fiction in non-literature programs and in skill development.

Please specify the tasks and activities, timeline, the learning aims and how they are assessed, i.e. what the deliverables will be

The students would be divided in 3 working groups based on the 3 steps mentioned above and each working group would be tasked with searching for and collecting relevant literature and materials, reading the literature, and providing critical feedback on the findings and documenting both their work process for finding the sources and all the materials that they come up with.

We would hold meetings every 2 weeks to discuss how the process is going, the main findings, if any adjustments need to be made and any challenges the students might face.

The learning goals are focused on developing research skills, particularly in terms of identifying interesting research questions related to the use of fiction in modern curricula, searching for academic literature, writing a critical literature review and providing critical feedback on the materials read.

The deliverables for each student will be a full literature review report related to the area / research question assigned to them as well as a database of all the sources, findings and materials.