GHSS 7050: Professional Life after Graduate School
(Career Design for the Humanities)
Spring 2024

Instructor: Kelly Oman, PhD, Assistant Director of Research Communication, dkk8cp@virginia.edu
Office hours can be arranged by appointment. Please feel free to email me for a meeting at any time.

Course Details
Thursdays 1-2 pm, [LOCATION TBD]

Course Description
This course provides an opportunity for graduate students in the humanities and social sciences to reflect on and plan for post-graduation career opportunities both in academe and in other areas. You will identify your values, interests, skills, and experiences and learn how they relate to various professional opportunities. By the end of the semester, you will bring together this knowledge of yourself and the range of career paths open to you to create an individual development plan (IDP) to guide your career planning. This class is required for 2nd year PhD students in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and is open to all humanities and humanistic social sciences PhD students in years 2-5.

Course Objectives
In this course you will develop self-knowledge and a structured approach to explore diverse careers for humanities PhDs. Specifically, we expect that you will be able to:

- Identify valuable skills and experiences for diverse careers (both within and beyond academia)
- Research the many career opportunities that align with your values, skills, and interests
- Develop SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) goals for strategic professional development that will prepare you for your top career(s) of choice on a realistic timeline
- Learn strategies to build a community of peers, mentors, allies, and advocates for your career development

Participation Options (both options 1 and 2 qualify you to apply for a PhD Plus internship):
1. **For Credit** – students can register for this class (GHSS 7050: Professional Life After Graduate School) to earn 1 credit (graded pass/fail). If you choose this option, you must commit to attending the full semester. Excessive absences will result in failure of the class.
2. **For PhD Plus Credential** – students who aren't able to commit to the full semester may attend the first 6 sessions (Jan. 18 – Feb. 22) and complete the IDP assignment to receive the non-credit "Career Design" credential on their transcript. To sign up for this option, register here: https://virginia.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_29KvkWhUsEPGL30
3. **For Fun!** – all grad students are invited to attend any of the online career panels in weeks 7-11. Those interested in attending one or more of the other class sessions without earning the credit or credential may reach out to the instructor (Kelly Oman, dkk8cp@virginia.edu) for permission.

Your Role
Class participation in discussions and activities is critical to getting something out of this class. This course is meant to guide your exploration of career options and to help you identify and achieve your career goals. That means for the course to be most effective, it needs to be shaped based on your interests and questions.

If you have interest in topics that are not on the syllabus, please do not hesitate to contact me. Class attendance is required, and classes should only be missed for extraordinary circumstances.

Assessment
Your grade will be based on class attendance, preparedness, and participation and successful completion of:
1. Pre-Course assessment (anonymous survey)
2. Your final Career IDP (Individual Development Plan).
3. Post-course assessment (anonymous survey)

Resources
You can find links to resources used in the development of this class here:
https://phdplus.virginia.edu/references-ahss-career-design
General resources for job seekers in the humanities will be made available on our course Canvas page.

Course Schedule
This schedule may be modified as we move through the semester. Please see our Canvas course page for links to course details, readings, and homework assignments.

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	January 18th	Course Introduction	Possible Lives
2	January 25th	Connecting Life and Work	Self-Assessment
3	February 1st	Research Self and Careers	Job Description Mining
4	February 8th	Networking and Building a Professional Community	Networking Strategy Worksheet
5	February 15th	Skills Valued in Diverse Careers	Skills Inventory Job Sim (Optional)
6	February 22nd	Resumes	Concrete Outcomes
7	February 29th	Career Panel I (meeting on zoom)	Prepare questions for panelists
8	March 7th	SPRING BREAK - **No Class**	
9	March 14th	Career Panel II (meeting on zoom)	Prepare questions for panelists
10	March 21st	Career Panel III (meeting on zoom)	Prepare questions for panelists
11	March 28th	Career Panel IV (meeting on zoom)	Prepare questions for panelists
12	April 4th	**No Class** – Individual meetings with instructor	
13	April 11th	Individual Development Plan for Careers	
14	April 18th	Course Conclusion	Submit IDP Worksheet
15	April 25th	**No Class**	