



INST 499 Directed Study Assignment Options

If you miss an IS conference or need to make up credits since you are a transfer student or failed a previous section of IS, you can enroll in INST 499 for a directed study. Unlike the INST conferences, this course is graded on the 4.0 scale. The assignment options listed here meet the hourly requirements and workload expectations for each credit amount.

- INST 499 A = 0.5 credits
- INST 499 B = 1.0 credits
- INST 499 C = 1.5 credits
- INST 499 D = 2.0 credits

Note that **you are expected to enroll in the IS conferences to the fullest extent possible *before*** you take INST 499. (For example, if you have one year left and 2.0 credits to make up, you take both semesters of the IS conference for 1.0 credit, and 499 for 1.0 credit. You do not take 499 for 2.0 credits.)

Steps for Enrolling in INST 499

- Fill in the [Application for Directed Study](#) (available in the Registry office or online).
- Review the assignment options below and choose the one(s) you wish to do.
- Fill out your Directed Study form and the [INST 499 Directed Study Syllabus](#) form (available at kingsu.ca/isconf/ on FAQs page under “How do I make up IS credits I have missed?”) or from Madison Holzmann in A121 (located in the Level).
- After you have both forms completed, make an appointment to meet with I.S. Director Rebecca Warren (A222, 780-465-8332, rebecca.warren@kingsu.ca). My office hours are posted outside my office door.
- I will review your form and sign it. I will give you a copy for yourself and one to bring to Registry. At that time you can enroll in INST 499.
- Complete your assignment by the agreed-upon date listed on your form.

Assignment Options

Each option below is worth 0.5 credits. For more than 0.5 credits, select whatever combination of the options you wish to equal the number of credits you need (e.g., for 1.5 credits, choose 3 options). You can do more than one of each option (e.g., you could choose Option 1 and read three different books and write a paper for each, or propose a longer book and write a longer paper). All projects must be approved by the IS Director so if you are confused about requirements, we can discuss when we meet.

Option 1—Book Review

Read a book from the book list below. Prepare a 5- to 6-page paper that answers the following questions:

- Which elements of root/stem/leaves did you find in this book? You may not find all in every book.
(Reminder: **root** = the deep human and spiritual causes that lead to this issue, **stem** = how the root shapes the surface appearance of the issue, **leaves** = how various disciplines understand the experience of the issue)
- What is the background of the issue? What did you learn in your reading that gave you a more nuanced understanding?
- How is this problem being addressed in creative ways that cross boundaries of disciplines?
- How is it possible to live in hope, even in the face of this issue?

Option 2—Social Issue Analysis

Read the essay “Life’s BIG questions” by Gideon Strauss. Then choose a social issue that you care deeply about and discuss how different groups taking action on this issue are answering the question “What is to be done?” You should explain which solutions you find the most compelling and why. Your 5- 6-page paper should show that you have a thorough background understanding of the issue, and should demonstrate that you have explored a minimum of three groups (political parties, non-profits, advocacy organizations, etc) and how they approach the issue. Your analysis should consider which “big question” is at stake in how society has dealt with this issue and what might guide future action.

Include a list of your research sources with your paper (including Internet sources).

Option 3—Video/Film Review

Watch the video “Ten Rules for Life” by Jean Vanier (available on YouTube). Watch one of the movies listed below. Write a 5- to 6-page reflective paper in which you consider which of Vanier’s “rules” (or their opposite) are operating in the film in various characters, and what the consequences (for good or bad) are of that in the story.

- Amelie
- Indian Horse (residential school)
- The Grizzlies (lacrosse team of Inuit students)
- Slumdog Millionaire
- Babette’s Feast
- Dead Poet’s Society
- Spotlight
- Whale Rider (Maori people)
- Queen of Katwe (Ugandan chess)

Option 4—Volunteering

For this option, you will read the essay “Life’s BIG questions” by Gideon Strauss and then spend at least 4 hours with a local non-profit organization. You will write a 500-word reflection in which you discuss the following questions:

- What organization did you volunteer for and what did you do?
- Which of the “big questions” in the essay by Strauss did you see addressed in the organization or the people it works with?
- How does the organization demonstrate a hopeful response to this issue?

BEFORE arranging your volunteer experience, you must request approval for your chosen organization and volunteer work. When you are finished, you should complete the Directed Study Assignment: Volunteering form (available at kingsu.ca/isconf/ on FAQs page under “How do I make up IS credits I have missed?”) or from Madison Holzmann in A121 (located in the Level). Your volunteer supervisor must complete and sign to show you completed the hours. Attach a copy of this form to the reflection paper when you submit your assignment.

Option 5—Choose Your Own

Suggest your own project. For this option, you will read the essay “Life’s BIG questions” by Gideon Strauss and connect it to whatever topic (or experience) you will choose.

You must get approval of your proposal from the IS Director BEFORE you enroll in 499. You should explain clearly what you plan to do and how it will demonstrate reflect an interdisciplinary understanding of education. (**Note:** it cannot be rooted in one discipline alone or repeat something you have done for another course.)

Book List

REMINDER If you wish to suggest your own book, remember: 1) it has to be rooted in an **interdisciplinary** approach, 2) you cannot have read it for another course, and 3) the book must be approved **in advance**.

***The descriptions below are taken in part directly from book cover copy*

1. *Hunting for Hope*

by Scott Russell Sanders

Interspersed with conversations from his son while hiking, the author realizes he’s given lots of reasons for his son to despair about the state of the world and not many to hope. The book gathers reasons to face the future with hope, including practices such as wildness, family, simplicity, and beauty. This book has a narrative focus with environmental themes.

2. *Dare We Speak of Hope?*
by Allan Boesak
This book explores the relationship between faith, hope, and politics. What does it mean to hope in light of present political realities and growing human pain? The author argues that hope comes to life only when we truly face reality in the struggle for justice, dignity, and the life of the earth. This book has a political/faith-based focus.
3. *Reality, Grief, Hope*
by Walter Brueggemann
An exploration of societal crisis and divide that delves into roots of and “prophetic tasks” for today’s world of reality, grief, and hope. This book has a theological/contemporary society focus.
4. *To Know as We Are Known: Education as Spiritual Journey*
by Parker J. Palmer
An exploration of how the mind and heart can work together in the learning process that critiques our current model of education and seeks to explore a way of educating based on the wisdom each of us possesses and can share to benefit others. This book has a reflective focus with Christian themes.
5. *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies*
by Marilyn Chandler McEntyre
Based on the premise that language today can be used in a way that it is “depleted, polluted, contaminated, eroded, and filled with artificial stimulants,” the book explores the practices that allow us to be careful with our language and use it well to connect to others and create beauty in the world. This book has a narrative focus with a focus on words and language (going beyond literature to the uses of language in culture).
6. *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* by James K. A. Smith
“You are what you love, but you might not love what you think.” This book explores the formative power of culture and the transformative possibilities of Christian practices as it interrogates what we mean by a vision of “the good life” that shapes many of our actions. It has a theological/contemporary culture focus.
7. *In This Together: Fifteen Stories of Truth & Reconciliation*
ed by Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail
“Evocative and unsettling, *In This Together* is an eye-opening collection of personal essays by Indigenous and non-Indigenous contributors from across Canada.... Each explore their own ‘aha’ moments regarding Canada’s colonial past and present to ask how we can all move forward in a spirit of reconciliation and anti-racism.”