

2020 FiR & Tutoring

Newsletter

Dr. Martin Gaal (Faculty-in-Residence (FiR)):

Lecturer in the Departments of Political Studies and International Studies

Bio: Dr. Martin Gaal has lectured at the University of Saskatchewan in Political Studies and International Studies since 2012. Before moving to Saskatoon, Martin lived and worked in South Korea, China, Taiwan, Belgium and the United Kingdom. In Belgium, Martin read for his Ph.D. in International Relations at the University of Kent Brussels. While undertaking his studies, he had the opportunity to work at the European Parliament and Copura, a European Security and Defence consultancy. Since 2016, Martin has been deeply involved in the development of the Global Studies Certificate and the formalization and teaching of the Political Studies online programming, working with the DEU to create six courses. He has also been working on the piloting and implementing of the First Year Research Experience across the department 100 level courses. In 2018-19, Martin received the USSU Teaching Excellence Award and in 2019-20 he was the recipient of the College of Arts and Science New Teacher Award in BA, BFA, and BMus Programs.

Martin has been the Faculty in Residence since 2014

Why is the field of politics and international studies interesting?

I have a passion for International Relations and teaching because we are standing on the precipice of global change. The old system is coming apart and what replaces it is unknown. Understanding what is and what might come is core to my academic focus. I believe our students are fundamental to answering these questions, something I try to bring into my classroom.

Contact Information: martin.gaal@usask.ca or faculty.residence@usask.ca



Jesus Corona Gomez:

Program of Study: Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering

Why is the field of Mechanical Engineering is interesting?

Because we solve the mystery of how the atomic structure changes the properties of a material! How cool is that!

Subjects of Tutoring

Chemistry, Physics, Mechanical and Chemical Engineering, Math, Spanish

Contact Information: jec489@mail.usask.ca



Bipin Unni:

Program of Study: Ph.D Chemistry (Spectroscopy and Electrochemistry)

Why is the field of Chemistry interesting?

These are the tools to learn various chemical and biological processes at molecular level – we are looking into the reactions that make the world!

Subjects of Tutoring

Chemistry, Math, Physics

Contact Information: biu205@mail.usask.ca



How does the FiR and Tutoring program work this year?

The FiR program is about enhancing the academic life of Usask Residences. In a normal year, you would see Martin (and possibly his two little minions) walking through the Usask residence and lounges. Martin would be hosting coffee sessions and offering pizza for group study sessions. But this is not a normal year - *shakes fist at the sky COVID! So we will be doing a few things differently. There are two main areas we will be pursuing for academic enrichment.

Tutoring: we will be continuing a Free Tutoring program for all Residence Students.

- For those who have accessed tutoring in the past, you will be happy to know that Jesus and Bipin are returning! Yeah! However, tutoring will look a bit different
 - There are three main tutoring venues
 - Every week, Jesus or Bipin will be hosting a themed WebEx session (schedule below)
 - Request for small group sessions with a theme
 - Requests for one-on-one sessions
 - Please note, these sessions are capped so please make your requests early and groups sessions will take precedence over individual sessions
 - Please note, we do not have a specific writing tutor this term.
 - As someone who has read 1000s of undergraduate and graduate papers, I can attest that almost every paper could be tweaked by editing. It is unfortunate that some GREAT ideas unravel when they hit the page. So, I highly recommend that you use the University 'Writing Help Center':
<https://library.usask.ca/studentlearning/writing-help/#OnlineWritingHelp>
 - Martin will be sending updates through future newsletters on various parts of the Writing Center

The Faculty in Residence

- Martin is still available to discuss any issues you may be having but via WebEx
 - The perennial issues
 - How to talk to a prof
 - How to talk with a supervisor
 - How to deal with academic stress
 - What to do when you find yourself struggling academically
 - New issues
 - How to deal with remote/online teaching
 - How to plan your academics under remote/online teaching
- Again, contact Martin at martin.gaal@usask.ca if you would like to book an individual or group session
- Martin will be launching a website that deals with these issues in a weekly blog with podcasts that feature key people on campus

Tutor Session Schedule			Full Chart with Links in the Email or Poster
Month	Date & Time	Tutor	Topic
Sept	15 th from 6pm-7pm	Jesus	Fundamentals to survive Chem112
	22 nd from 6pm-7pm	Bipin	Introductory topics in Chem 114
	29 th from 6pm-7pm	Jesus	Fundamentals to survive Physics115
Oct	6 th from 6pm-7pm	Bipin	Problem solving techniques in Chem 112
	13 th from 6pm-7pm	Jesus	How to pass Chem112 mid-term
	20 th from 6pm-7pm	Bipin	Problem solving techniques in Chem 114
	27 th from 6pm-7pm	Jesus	How to pass Physics115 mid-term
Nov	3 rd from 6pm-7pm	Bipin	Methods to draw Lewis structure
	17 th from 6pm-7pm	Jesus	Preparation for Physics115 Final
	24 th from 6pm-7pm	Bipin	Practice problems for Chem 112 finals
Dec	1 st from 6pm-7pm	Jesus	Preparation for Chem112 Final
	7 th from 6pm-7pm	Bipin	Practice problems for Chem 114 finals