

**UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
INDIGENOUS STUDIES
IS 2501G, Winter Term 2019**

IROQUOIAN ARTS

Instructor: David Kanatawakhon
Office: Room 3214, Social Science Bldg.,
Office Hours: By appointment
Telephone: 519-661-2111 Ext: 85042
Email: david.kanatawakhon@uwo.ca
Time: Thursdays, 10:30 to 1:30 SSC,
Classroom: Room 3108

COURSE DESCRIPTION

IROQUOIAN ARTS - An introduction to the decorative expression of Iroquoian peoples, from contact to present, providing descriptions of manufacture and use with culturally relevant explanations for non-ritual and ritual applications. Students will have the opportunity to understand and appreciate the Iroquoian world-view through its artistic expressions in daily life.

READERS

The following titles, to be used as readers for this course, provide a good general cross-section of cultural material manufacture and the designs and patterns used to decorate them.

Iroquois Crafts, by Carrie Lyford, 1945
The Iroquois, by Frank Gouldsmith Speck, 1955

READINGS

The book titles shown below would be suitable for additional reading in order to get a better understanding of the various aspects of Iroquoian art and design.

Lewis Henry Morgan on Iroquois Material Culture, by Elizabeth Tooker, 1994
League of the Iroquois, by Lewis Henry Morgan, 1845
Lewis H. Morgan on Iroquois Material Culture, by Elisabeth Tooker, 1994
Indian Ceremonial and Trade Silver, by National Museums of Canada, 1980
Seneca Splint Basketry, by M. Lismer, 1941
Mary Adams: An Exhibition of Her Work, Iroquois Indian Museum, 1997
Costume of the Iroquois, by R. Gabor, 1980
The Iroquois: Their Arts and Crafts, by Carrie Lyford, 1989
Iroquois Art, by Peter Jones, 1990
Flights of Fancy: An Introduction to Iroquois Beadwork, by D. Elliot, 2002

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Additional readings, averaging two or more pages, will be made available to the students with respect to each topic area dealt with in this course.

TOPIC AREAS FOR DISCUSSION

The course will be divided into specific topic areas to show the various aspects of Iroquoian art forms and traditions.

- pottery: contact and contemporary (revival)
- stone carving
- silver work (jewelry): traditional and contemporary
- wood carving: masks, spoons, paddles, canes, lacrosse sticks and war clubs
- basketry
- embroidery: quill work, moosehair embroidery and thread
- bead work: old style (trade beads), new style (seed beads), and embossed
- weaving (finger): sashes made from basswood bark fibres and sashes made from wool / cotton
- clothing styles: leather, fur and feathers, or cloth and fabric
- designs and patterns
- contemporary art styles: painting, music, play and theatre

EVALUATION

Short paper

The student will write a paper, approximately 3,000 words in length, on some aspect of an Iroquoian art form. The paper will be handed in to the Professor no later than the last day of class. **25%**

In-class presentation

The student will make an in-class presentation based on an Iroquoian art form or tradition, an artist, or some artistic technique. The presentation shall be no shorter than 15 minutes, must make use of a visual presentation, either physical or electronic, and provide a written handout for other students present. The in-class presentations will begin during week 10 of the course and be finished by the last (13) class. **20%**

Art Project

The student will produce a (representative) piece of Iroquoian art based on the course material and individual research. The pieces will be presented to the class on the last day of the course. **30%**

Final

The final exam will be based on explanations of terminology and techniques as they apply to Iroquoian art and design. **25%**

COURSE OUTLINE
IROQUOIAN ART and DESIGN
Weekly Schedule

WEEK 1

Introduction:

Who are the Iroquoians?

Where are they - past and present?

What is Iroquoian art past and present?

How is Iroquoian art and design unique?

Reading: *Iroquoian Arts and Crafts*

WEEK 2

Iroquoian design and patterns

Readings: *Iroquoian Arts and Crafts*; and *The Iroquois: Their Arts and Crafts*.

WEEK 3

Pottery

Looking at the archaeological record.

Pottery types and styles.

Contemporary Iroquoian pottery and pottery revival.

WEEK 4

Wood and Bone carving

Archaeological evidence.

Use of bone for tools and ornamentation.

WEEK 5

Embroidery: Moosehair, quill, and thread

Finger Weaving: sashes and garters

WEEK 6

Iroquoian uses and significance of silver: past and present.

Reading: *Indian Ceremonial and Trade Silver*.

WEEK 7

Baskets: their use, manufactures and distribution.

Reading: *Mary Adams: An Exhibition of Her Work*.

WEEK 8

Beads and Beadwork applications.

In-class presentation due

Readings: *Flights of Fancy: An Introduction to Iroquoian Beadwork*.

WEEK 9

Clothing: past and contemporary

Traditional styles and adaptations
In-class presentation due 20%
Readings: *Costume of the Iroquois*

WEEK 10

Stone carving.
In-class presentation due.
Paper (3,000 words) due. 25%

WEEK 11

Painting - contemporary styles in various media.
In-class presentation due.

WEEK 12

Iroquoian music, play and theatre.
In-class presentation due.

WEEK 13

Review of Term material
Art Project is due 30%

Final Exam: 25%

IMPORTANT POLICIES

Attendance and Participation

Active participation in a course like this is very important. Student involvement in group discussions and language practice sessions can enhance your learning experience. The more you use the language, the easier it becomes to use it. It can also improve your pronunciation and language skills acquisition. Regular attendance is important to the class dynamic and your success in this class. Missing one class, especially the two-hour session, can very quickly put you far behind. Arriving late, unless you have a valid reason or have previously informed the instructor of such, can be disruptive to the class. The instructor takes regular attendance and arriving on time reflects a desire to learn the language and as respect for the course, the other students and the Professor. Remember, you have chosen to attend this course and it is up to you to maintain good attendance and participation.

Policies for Assignment Deadlines

In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Students are expected to act in a timely manner when seeking and arranging accommodations.

A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth less than 10% must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline.

Policy on Accommodation for Illness:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf).

A Note on Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

(https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.