



The University of Western Ontario

FNS 4903G Indigenous Research and Methodologies

Lecture (via Zoom): Thursday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm (**synchronous**)

Instructor: Lewis Williams

Office Hours (via Zoom): By appointment.

Email: Lewis.Williams@uwo.ca

Course Description: This course adopts a critical approach to establishing the relevance of post-colonial Indigenous research and methodologies to the global project of decolonization. Inviting students to situate themselves within the research process, it combines theory and practice, utilizing lectures, self-study and interactive process.

Pre-requisite(s): Registration in any third or fourth-year program

Anti-requisite(s): Nil

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate understanding of the historical and contextual issues (including the intersections between White Supremacy, hetero-patriarchy, and neo-liberalism) that have and continue to shape the evolution of post-colonial Indigenous research methodologies globally, the philosophies and agency-imperatives that underlie their emergence, as well as their relevance for a diverse range of displaced and culturally dislocated groups.
- B. Critique major dominant paradigms including the ways knowledge production is shaped by power relations of colonization and its continuing forms.
- C. Demonstrate understanding of relational epistemologies as an overarching framework within which post-colonial indigenous methodologies are situated, including the ways these can draw on paradigms and methodologies from Western traditions that are commensurate with the goals of decolonization.
- D. Demonstrate understanding of the mobilization of basic principles of Indigenous post-colonial research within a specific context including the ways in which their own cultural identities (broadly defined) are situated within the research process

Required Text:

- Course materials to be advised.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Research essay (1000 words) and 10-minute class presentation, 20% of final grade
2. Research essay (3000 words) 40% of final grade
3. Take home exam, 40% of final grade

Course Schedule and Readings (TBD):

WK1			
WK2			
WK3			
WK4			
WK5			
WK6			
WK7			
WK8			
WK9			
WK10			
WK11			
WK12			

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines

All written assignments are to be submitted electronically to the instructor and are due at the start of class on the assigned date. A 5% deduction per day will apply to late papers, including papers submitted after class has started. Please see the Instructor in advance of the due date, if an extension is required. Further information on “Academic Consideration for Missed Work” is below.

Assignment objectives and rubrics will be posted on OWL, as well as discussed in class via Zoom. Should you have a concern regarding the grade you received for an assignment, you **must wait 24 hours** from the receipt of the grade (on OWL) to contact the instructor. In doing so, please make an appointment and prepare in writing, with evidence, why you feel your grade is inappropriate. Please be aware that in requesting a grade reassessment, your grade could go up/down/or stay the same. Note that calculations errors (which do occur!) should be brought to my attention immediately.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements must submit a request for academic consideration through the appropriate route:

- (i) For **absences 48 hours or less**, students can complete a [Self-Reported Absence \(SRA\)](#) form provided the conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. The form [can be completed online](#). The SRA can be used only twice. Please note the important exceptions to this rule:
 - i. Not permitted for final exams or assessments worth more than 30% of a course.

- (ii) Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of a course, the student has already used 2 SRAs, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.
- (iii) All of the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling procedures can be found here: <https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/index.html>

Students seeking academic consideration:

- Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work.
- Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence.
- **All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence.**

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:

- **Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability** are responsible for determining, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the [Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability](#). Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.
- **Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance** (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through [Student Health and Wellness](#) and [Learning Development & Success](#) in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

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 as outlined in the [Scholastic Discipline](#) policy.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences (including plagiarism) 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

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).

Policies on Examinations

No electronic devices of any kind are allowed during tests and examinations.

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

Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources at Western to assist you. Please visit the [Mental Wellbeing website](#) for more information on mental health resources.