INDSTU 4903G
Course Outline: Winter 2022

Title: Indigenous Research and Methodologies
Lecture: Tuesdays 10.30am -1.30pm.
Blended format, min 35% on-line (check schedule below)

I take this opportunity to welcome students to the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-wonda-run) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e.g., First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors to our society.

1. Course Information
   1.1. Contact Information:

   Instructor: Dr Lewis Williams
   Office: SSC 3210
   Office Hours: By appointment.
   Phone: N/A
   Email: Lewis.Williams@uwo.ca

2. Calendar Description
   2.1. Course Description

   This advanced course examines the critical issues and tensions of doing research with and for Indigenous peoples. Themes will include Indigenous methodologies (including but not limited to oral histories), and decolonizing research.

   3 lecture hours, 0.5 course
   Antirequisite(s): N/A
   Prerequisite(s): Registration in any third or fourth year program.
   Prerequisite checking is the student’s responsibility

Please note that for the 2021-2022 academic year, this course will be taught using a Blended Format. This means a minimum of 35% content will be delivered online, using synchronous and/or asynchronous formats). Details will be provided on the first day of class and are subject to change depending on local health regulations.
Students are required to attend the class during the regularly scheduled time each week as there will be important discussions taking place during class. For the most part only the zoom-recorded lectures and power-point slides will posted to the course website on OWL, sometime soon after the class is completed. This means none of the discussions we have in class will be recorded. Students who miss a class accept full responsibility for working independently using the written information on OWL to guide their progress.

It is the student’s responsibility to make sure they have the required technology to successfully complete the course.

Technical Requirements:

- Stable internet connection
- Laptop or desktop computer with updated software
- Working microphone
- Working webcam
- Western University Zoom application installed Detailed specifications (see “computer requirements”): https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/timetables.html Western Zoom page, including privacy information: https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html
- If you need technical assistance, first search the OWL Help Page, then contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk using their Online Helpdesk or by calling 519.661.3800 (if on campus, ext. 83800)

2.2. Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

3. Textbooks: Books available on 2-hr reserve loan at Weldon Library


Readings from the above two books and other course readings are provided through OWL

An Asterix (*) indicates that a reading or other preparation resource is supplementary and optional.
4. Course Objectives and Format

A. Students will be introduced to the conceptual underpinnings of Indigenous research methodologies and will gain an understanding of the historical and contemporary contextual issues that continue to shape their evolution.

B. Students will gain an understanding of the ways in which race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability intersect with colonialism, and the ways in which ‘intersectionality’ is theoretically situated within Indigenous research methodologies. Indigenist feminist and critical theory will be key considerations.

C. Students will learn about key research paradigms (including the interrelations between epistemology, ontology, axiology, methodology and methods) and the ways in which research and knowledge production is shaped by culturally dominant power relations.

D. Students will gain an understanding of the movement towards post-colonial Indigenous research methodologies and relational epistemologies, and the ways in which Western traditions which are commensurate with the goals of decolonization and Indigenous resurgence, can be aligned with Indigenous research methodologies.

E. Students will gain an understanding about the ways in which their own cultural identities are situated in relation to the application of Indigenous research methodologies and the implications of this for research design and process, including the importance of self-reflexivity in negotiating the research terrain.

F. Students will be introduced to culturally responsive Indigenous research methodologies and gain an understanding of the application of specific research methods within this framing.

G. Students will develop an appreciation for some of the challenges encountered within the application of Indigenous research methodologies within institutional and community partnerships.

5. 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.
6. Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Components</th>
<th>Percentage of Course Grade</th>
<th>Assignment Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflective Diary: critical conversation exchange I</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>25th January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research essay (1200 words) and 10-minute class presentation. 15% Research Essay, 5% Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective Diary: critical conversation exchange II</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1st March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Design Essay (3500 words)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>21st March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective Diary</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>6th April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grade Breakdown and Explanation**

90-100  Excellent. You have surpassed my expectations (very rare)
80-89   Very good. You have fulfilled my expectations
70-79   Good. Expectations are mostly fulfilled with weak areas.
60-69   Satisfactory. There are problems such as confusing writing or expectations are not fulfilled.
50-59   Less than satisfactory. There are major problems.
< 50    Unsatisfactory, Fail.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. Students are expected to attend class.

For Western’s NEW Policy on Accommodation for Illnesses please refer to the Academic Calendar’ section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities.
Policies for Assignment Deadlines

All written assignments are to be submitted electronically to the instructor and are due on or before the date and time specified under “methods of evaluation” for each assignment. This means if your assignment is due at 9.00am and you submit it at 9.31am, it will be considered late. Extension of deadlines or alternate dates for tests will be granted only for documented illness or compassionate reasons. Workloads (i.e., other class work, projects, readings, employment) do not count as a reasonable excuse. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day, including papers submitted after a specified time. If your assignment is submitted 5 days or more past the due date without sufficient grounds for lateness as specified above, it will be marked purely for your educational benefit. Your mark will not count towards your final grade for the course.

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. 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.

Requesting Academic Consideration

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

(i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
(ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
(iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments or upsets are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:
• **Students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability.** Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability are responsible, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, to determine 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 Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

**Grades will not be adjusted** on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You are responsible for your grades in this course.*

7. **Make up examinations**  
N/A

8. **Use of Electronic Devices**  
N/A

9. **Academic Offences**  
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the 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 (http://www.turnitin.com).

10. **Western’s Commitment to Accessibility**  
The Indigenous Studies program strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

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 519-661-2147 for any specific question.
regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website.

More information about “Accessibility at Western” is available.

11. Medical Issues
The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. The Student Services website provides greater detail about the University’s policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

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

12. Mental Health
If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western’s Health and Wellness website for more information on mental health resources.

13. Support Services
Student Support Services
Student Development Services

14. Important Dates
Classes will commence the week of January 10th, cease during Reading Week, February 19th – 27th, and terminate on April 8th.

- January 10th: Classes resume
- January 14th: Last day to add a second term half course or a second term full course
- February 21st: Family Day (official holiday), IS office closed.
- February 19th – 27th: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open).
- March 11th: Last day to drop a second term half course or a second term full course without academic penalty.
- April 8th Classes end.
- April 10th – 30th: Final Examination period.

15. COVID19 Guidelines

Masking Guidelines
• Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

• Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

• Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire

• Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling). Methods for dealing with missed work and course content are at the discretion of the instructor(s). Students should be aware that some learning outcomes cannot be easily made up and may need to be completed in a subsequent year. Your instructor will provide you with further information as to how this applies within this course.

• Students who demonstrate a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning.

• In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor. In the event that online learning is required, a stable v1 (2021.09.03) internet connection with working microphone and webcam will be required. As has been the case in the past, the decision to pivot to online learning will be made by Western, and not individual instructors or departments (excepting temporary online instruction in the event of instructor illness).

16. Course Schedule and Readings
Note: the schedule may be subject to change. If there are any changes, we will discuss in class first. We may not discuss or cover all readings in class; however, they are intended to give added context to what is discussed. The readings with an * beside them are not compulsory reading; however, they will strengthen your knowledge of the topic area. Readings should be read before the commencement of class each week. OWL and TEXTS Supplementary readings on course site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assesments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WK1: Jan 11th</td>
<td>What is Indigenous research and methodologies?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK2: Jan 18th</td>
<td>Indigenous and other key (western) paradigms: epistemology, ontology &amp; axiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK3: Jan 25th</td>
<td>A critical look at western paradigms and dominant power-knowledge relations &amp; the relevance of Indigenous research and methodologies for diverse and historically marginalized identities.</td>
<td>Reflective Diary: critical conversation Exchange I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK5: Feb 8th</td>
<td>Indigenous and decolonizing quantitative research methods</td>
<td>Research essay (1200 words) and 10-minute class presentation. 15% Research Essay, 5% Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK6: Feb 15th</td>
<td>Perspectives &amp; Methodologies: Research Through, With and As Storying</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Professor Tracey Bunda, Director Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Unit, University of Queensland, Australia.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Reading Week 19th – 27th Feb</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK7: March 1st</td>
<td>Situating self: (indigenous) Relational epistemologies, western epistemological traditions and Decolonization</td>
<td>Reflective Diary: critical conversation Exchange II 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK8: March 8th</td>
<td>W8 Language, oral literature and story-telling as foundations for Indigenous research and methodologies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK11</td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Theme to be decided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK 12</td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Review and reflections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>