MPA 862 – Indigenous Research Methods

Queen’s University – Winter 2021

Instructor: Dr. Ian Fanning (non-status Algonquin)

Email: irf@queensu.ca

Course description:

Students will be introduced to fundamental issues for conducting research with Indigenous communities and peoples. The course will consider ideological, political, ethical, and practical issues that influence the formulation of Indigenous-centered research within various First Nation, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) social and political contexts, both urban and rural. The course is guided by a critical awareness that research with and for Indigenous communities and peoples must be carried out utilizing Indigenous perspectives, sensibilities and engagement, being ever mindful of the expression “nothing about us without us.”

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of MPA 862, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the colonial history and structure of research and theory
2. Describe key elements of an Indigenous research agenda
3. Analyze the positive impacts of community-based, decolonized, research methodologies

Expectations of Students:

All students are expected to complete the required readings and submit assignments in accordance with the due dates listed. Written work must be typed in 12-point font, double-spaced, properly referenced in a style of your choice. Please include page numbers when applicable, as well as your name and submission date.

Expectations of the Instructor:

I am available for consultation via email, phone, Skype and Zoom. I will respond to email messages within 24 hours. On occasion, there will be a longer response time, and I appreciate your patience. I will provide feedback and a grade for assignments submitted on time, within two weeks of the assignment due date.
Required Readings:


All other required readings will be supplied by the instructor and made available via OnQ. Required readings are listed by session in the course schedule below.

Evaluation Overview:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Final Grade %</th>
<th>Assignment Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic Proposal for Research Essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Friday, Feb. 5th, 10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Infographic</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Friday, Feb. 26th, 10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Weds, March 17th, 10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Friday, April 2nd, 10pm</td>
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</tbody>
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LATE POLICY:

4% penalty per day late. This will be enacted one minute after the deadline has passed for any assignment submission.

If you require an exception or accommodation related to this policy, please communicate with me well in advance.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

All written assignments will be prepared in 12-point font, double-spaced format. No title page is required, but make sure your name is on your work. The number of pages listed for each assignment does not include a list of required references. All assignments are to be delivered electronically to my email account, or via OnQ on or before the due date. Feedback on marked assignments will be returned to students via email or OnQ. Instructions and rubrics for all assignments can be found under the Content tab in OnQ.

1. Final Research Essay Proposal
In a three-page proposal, share your initial thoughts about Indigenous Research Methodologies. In consultation with the instructor, propose a topic, research question and methodology to address this question. Online consultations with the instructor will be available to students.

DUE DATE: Friday, Feb. 5th, 10pm

2. Mid-term Infographic

This assignment consists of two parts:

1) Use https://piktochart.com or another site/program (eg. PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) to produce an infographic that expands on your Research Essay Proposal and addresses the feedback of the instructor.

2) To accompany this, you will prepare an audio clip (oral narrative) that highlights the key points of your infographic and guides the instructor through your work. Your audio clip can be up to 15 minutes in length.

DUE DATE: Friday, Feb. 26th, 10pm

3. Individual Presentation

You will prepare and deliver a recorded or live online presentation to the instructor. Instructions and details are available in the rubric document in OnQ.

DUE DATE: Weds, March 17th, 10pm

4. Research Essay/Project

You will prepare a 12 – 15-page research essay report based on your proposal earlier in the course. The paper topic will be decided in consultation between the student and instructor. Instructions and details are available in the rubric document in OnQ.

DUE DATE: Friday, April 2nd, 10pm

Course Schedule

Week 1: Deconstructing the Colonized (and Colonizing) view of Research

Required Readings:
1. Smith text – chapter 1

2. (Unpublished work – do not share outside of this class) Lovelace, Robert. *Nothing to Do About Much*. A paper presented to "Indigenous land rights and reconciliation" Conference, Queen's University, September 5 & 6, 2019.

**Recommended viewing:** Bob Lovelace in conversation with Ian Fanning on Indigenous Resurgence (link provided in OnQ)

**Week 2: A Colonized Research Agenda**

**Required Readings:** Smith text – chapters 2 and 3

**Week 3: Decolonizing Feminism**

**Required Reading:** Arvin, Maile, et al. *“Decolonizing Feminism: Challenging Connections Between Settler Colonialism and Heteropatriarchy.”* Feminist Formations, vol. 25, no. 1, 2013, pp. 8-34.

**Week 4: Research Adventures on Indigenous Lands**

**Required reading:** Smith text – chapter 4

**Recommended viewing:** Land-Based Learning Video – Lisa Cadue on Belle Island

**Week 5: Indigenous Storywork as Research – Telling our Stories**


**Week 6: Shifting the Focus to Indigenous Research Methodologies**

**Required readings:** Smith text – chapter 6

**Recommended reading:** Smith text – chapter 5

**Week 7: Indigenous Research Imperatives**

**Required Readings:** Smith text – chapter 7

**Recommended reading:** Smith text – chapter 8

**Week 8: Research as a Return to Land**

**Weeks 9 and 10: Community-Based Research**

**Required Readings:**


* For these weeks I will be sharing additional unpublished work and perspectives from my experiences and relationships

**Week 11: Indigenous Research and Social Justice Struggles**

**Required reading:** Smith text – chapter 11

**Week 12: The Paradox of Indigenous Research and Indigenous Resistance**