



MASKWACIS CULTURAL COLLEGE

Faculty/Department

Course Code/Title: RSWR 1900

Course level 1st Year

Course term/ date FALL 2017

Course dates: September 12-December 5, 2017

Room No: MCC 102

Hours: 1:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

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Academic Calendar description and credit hour breakdown:

University Transfer Course (MCC) – 3 credits - 13-3-1.0

An introduction to research and writing within a University context is presented. This course will use literature and ideas from the field of Indigenous studies to help students improve their research and writing skills.

Required Course Materials – use Open Education whenever possible: *Please use APA format. We need to model this for students*

Kovach, M. (2009). *Indigenous methodologies: Characteristics, conversations, and contexts*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Smith, L.T. (2012). *Decolonizing methodologies*. New York: Zed Books.

Wilson, S. (2008). *Research is ceremony: Indigenous research methods*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

Additional Resources: Scholarly Articles, Librarian & Library Resources, and Elders

Prerequisites and Co-requisite information: ENGL 1500

Course Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to help students develop skills related to research and writing, particularly in the following ways:

- Review texts related to Indigenous Research Methodologies
- Critical analysis of how research has influenced Indigeneity
- Participate in active discussion and sharing of lived experience
- Partake in library research
- Refine academic skills required for university success such as reading, writing, oral communication and critical analysis.
- Understand the broad and complex range of issues pertinent to Indigenous peoples and the issues related to research

Learning outcomes: At the end of this course, the students will be able to

- a) analyze documents
- b) prepare an article/chapter summary
- c) complete a research outline
- d) form a personal research journal
- d) construct a research paper

Assignments:

Assignment	Request for	Percentage of total grade	Due date
#1	Participation	10	Daily
#2	Chapter/Article Summary	20	September 26
#3	Research Outline	10	October 17
#4	Research Journal	10	November 7
#5	Annotated Bibliography	20	November 21
#6	Research Paper	30	December 5
Total		100%	

Assignments:

#1. Participation (10%):

Students will be asked to actively engage in the learning environment for **each class**. Individual, small group and large group discussions are encouraged and will comprise part of the classroom participation and contribution mark. Students will participate in making the learning environment a safe, secure location for the critical examination of topics covered in the course. Students will be asked to make every effort to attend scheduled classes, signing in at every class. Also, students will attend 3 library sessions and failure to attend these library sessions/labs will impact the overall participation mark. In the event of unforeseen events such as emergencies and family matters, students will be asked to follow-up with the administration and properly notify the appropriate administrative staff within the College regarding non-attendance of class.

#2. Article Summary/Critique (20%):

Each student will be responsible to critically examine one of the readings in the course. In the summary of the article/chapter, each student must critically examine the article/chapter and state the thesis of the reading. In point form, summarize the major arguments and/or supporting information stated by the author. Part of the article summary and critique is to answer the following questions: What is the thesis? What are the author's arguments? What are the main points? What are some interesting points for you? How does this article connect with the larger themes? Explain what the significance of this article is and its relevance to the course in general? Are there any questions that the article raises for you? And, if there are no questions, state why you think the article is convincing and draw links to the course topics. A one-page handout is required and it must be made available for each student.

#3. Research Outline (10%):

- 1) **Topic Selection:** Students will have a wide range of choices to determine their topic selection however, students must determine their own scholarly development and critical understanding of one of the major topics covered in the course.
- 2) **Research Sources:** There should be a series of sources utilized in the development of the topic selection. Students must be able to show at least 5 potential areas of investigation as indicated by the annotated bibliographies.
- 3) **Argumentation:** Students must be able to articulate an argumentation sentence that will guide the direction of the essay. The thesis statement must be included in the research outline.

#4. Research Journal (10%):

Students will maintain a daily research journal for the duration of the course. There must be weekly entries with a minimum of a half page per entry. Each entry should describe the topic/event and reflect your personal thoughts and opinions about the experience. The following questions should be answered in the research journals: What was the topic about? What is your knowledge about the topic? Did you know anything prior? What biases/opinions/beliefs do you hold about the topic? What did you learn? What do you question? How will you utilize this new knowledge? Research journals must have one weekly entry from September 12 to November 14. There must be total of 9 journal entries between that time frame.

#5. Annotated Bibliography (20%):

Students will complete an annotated bibliography of a minimum of 5 sources. The annotated bibliography will be single spaced with a minimum of four sentences for each citation. Use APA format for the sources. Each citation will describe what the source is about and will highlight some of the major findings. Students will only summarize the material for the purposes of explaining the content.

#6: Major Essay Criteria (30%):

One major essay will be handed in at the end of the course. Essays will be typed and between 1000-1500 words, between 4 – 6 written pages, title page & bibliography are 6 – 8 pages (minimum 250 words per page), and will address specific topics presented during the lectures. This essay should reflect the following areas:

- Major essays should be typed and double - spaced.
- Required word length is 1000-1500 words in length.
- Proper essay style is expected using APA, including proper bibliography style. The marking grid will be based on essay style with spelling, grammar and diction considered.
- Students are expected to present their knowledge and critical analysis of the selected topic using a minimum of 5 sources in their bibliography.

Grading system rating:**Grading system revised April 2017**

Descriptor	Grade point value	Percentage	Alpha grade	Standing
Outstanding performance	4.0	95 or above	A +	Honours
Excellent performance – superior performance showing comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter	4.0	85 – 94.99	A	Honours
Approaching excellent	3.7	80-84.99	A-	Honours
Exceeding good performance	3.3	77-79.99	B+	
Good performance – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete	3.0	73-76.99	B	
Approaching good performance	2.7	70-72.99	B-	
Exceeding Satisfactory performance	2.3	67-69.99	C +	
Satisfactory performance basic understanding of the subject matter	2.0	63-66.99	C	Minimal pass
Approaching satisfactory performance	1.7	60-62.99	C-	
Insufficient prep for subsequent courses in same subject	1.3	55-59.99	D+	
Insufficient prep for subsequent courses	1.0	50-54.99	D	
Failure. Did not meet course requirements	0.0	0-49.99	F	
Incomplete	0.0	0.0	I	

Schedule of lectures and topics covered:

	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
1	Sept 12	Introduction	Ermine Article	
2	Sept 19	Research?	Smith – Ch 1, 2, 3 & 4; Littlebear Article	
3	Sept 26	What is IRM?	Steinhauer Article, Smith – 6 & 7	Article Summary
4	Oct 3	Research as Ceremony	Wilson – Ch 1, 2 & 3	
5	Oct 10	IRM Elements	Wilson – Ch 4, Smith – Ch 10	
6	Oct 17	IRM & Issues	Kovach – Ch 1, 2 & 3	Research Outline
7	Oct 24	Decolonization	Kovach – Ch 4	
8	Oct 31	Situating Self	Kovach - Ch 6, Wilson – Ch 2	
9	Nov 7	Relationality	Wilson – Ch 5	
10	Nov 14	Storywork	Kovach – Ch 5	Research Journal
11	Nov 21	Accountability	Wilson – Ch 6, Kovach – Ch 8	Annotated Bibliography
12	Nov 28	Research Time		
13	Dec 5	Research Issues	Smith – Ch 11 & 12	Major Essay

Schedule of Laboratories and topics covered in the College Library:

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
September 19	How to search for documents	Article Summaries
October 10	How to create annotated bibliographies	Research Outline
November 28	Individual research	Major Paper

Additional Information:

Attendance: Attendance at class is a great predictor of course grades. Students are encouraged to attend every class. Students who miss two consecutive classes without reasonable explanation ahead of time will be referred to student services for follow up. Participation grades are given for participation which means being prepared to participate by reading materials ahead of time. In some classes discussion is vital and

Student Success Services is available for all students who require additional help with study skills, time management, exam preparation skills and any other personal life skills.

Student conduct: Students are expected to behave in a professional manner with honesty and integrity. Please refer to the Student Guide for details and adhere to all expectations.

Plagiarism: is a serious Academic offence. The consequence of such an offence is suspension or termination from the program or from the College. Please discuss plagiarism with your instructor or Student Services to fully understand what this entails.

Late assignments and projects: Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date. Five percent will be deducted each day that an assignment is late. The instructor may consider an extension if notified 48 hours prior to due date and supporting documentation of an acceptable reason is provided. Extensions will not be granted if not requested ahead of the due date. If you are late with assignments, it is often very difficult to catch up and obtain a reasonable grade.

Accommodation: Students who require accommodation in this course due to any type of disability must discuss this with their instructor and the Dean of Student Services.

Re-appraisal of grades: Any student seeking a re-appraisal of grades must discuss this with the instructor within two weeks of the work being returned. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of that discussion, further discussion can take place with the Dean of the program.

Contract: This course outline is a contract between the instructor and the students. At times course outlines need to change, however, all students will be consulted prior to final change.

APA, MLA, and Chicago citation formats:

Please see the following videos for assistance:

[Maskwacis Cultural College - APA Formatting & Title Page](#)
[Maskwacis Cultural College - APA - Citing One and Two Authors](#)
[Maskwacis Cultural College - APA - Personal Communications](#)
[Maskwacis Cultural College - APA - Reference Page](#)

MLA and Chicago style video are in progress at Maskwacis Cultural College Library, , but students can go to Youtube and view other videos and/or ask their instructor for guidance.

Academic approval by



President

Cultural content approved by



Elder Jerry Saddleback