



Critical and Anti- Oppressive Methodologies

3006F

Fall 2018



Class information

Dr. Lucas Savino
lsavino2@uwo.ca
@Prof_Sav

Office Hours (A208)

Mondays 11:30 - 12:30pm
Wednesdays 11:30 - 12:30pm
or by appointment

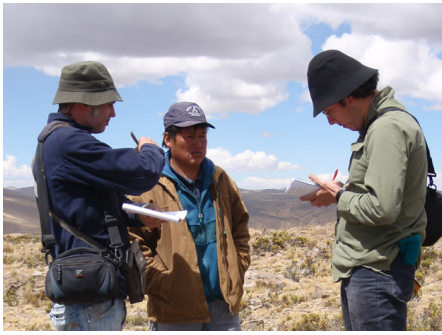
This class meets weekly,
every **Wednesday** from **8:30**
to **11:30am** in room **W18**

*In the event of unexpected
class cancellations, the
instructor will post such
notice on OWL.*

Course description and objectives

This course addresses collective and community approaches to knowledge production in the service of protecting and promoting cultural, political, and territorial integrity and self-determination. The main objective of this course is to engage with empirical research methods based on emancipatory goals.

A common theme running through this course is the nature of knowledge and the power relationships that exist between researchers and research subjects. The course addresses how notions of anti-oppression, social justice, and indigenous cosmovisions are mobilized in all stages of research.



Course Calendar

The links to all required readings will be posted in the OWL course site.

No book purchase is necessary for this course.

Classes will be conducted under the assumption that we have completed and studied the readings before class.

Please note that the course calendar is subject to change. Appropriate notice will be given in class and OWL.

Each class is often structured in the following way:

1. Study guides and class discussion of readings
2. Lecture
3. Research Design Workshops

Weekly Topics	Readings
Week 1 (Sep. 12) Introduction to critical and anti-oppressive research	Potts & Brown (2015) Cannella & Lincoln (2009)
Week 2 (Sep. 19) Research <i>as</i> social justice <i>Research as process</i>	Freire (1968) hooks (2003) Humphries et al (2005)
Week 3 (Sep. 26) Power relations and ethical challenges	Banks et al (2013) Wilson et al (2018)
Week 4 (Oct. 3) Community-based participatory research <i>The research question</i>	Ochocka & Janzen (2014) Perry & Rappoport (2014) + In-class response 1
Fall Reading Week (Oct. 8 - 12)	
Week 5 (Oct. 17) Community-based participatory research. <i>The literature review</i>	Koster et al (2012) Tobias et al (2013)
Week 6 (Oct. 24) Ethnography: the global fieldwork. <i>Research methods</i>	Marcus (1995) Rajak (2011)
Week 7 (Oct. 31) Ethnography: "place" in research. <i>Sampling</i>	Tuck & McKenzie (2015) Bhattacharya (2013)
Week 8 (Nov. 7) Decolonizing Methodologies. <i>Data gathering</i>	Denzin & Lincoln (2008) Smith, L. T. (2006) + Literature Review
Week 9 (Nov. 14) Indigenous Research. <i>Data analysis</i>	Smith, L. T. (2012) Simonds & Christopher (2013) + In-class response 2
Week 10 (Nov. 21) Feminism and AOR <i>Research outcomes</i>	Lavie (2011) Cornwall & Sardenberg (2014)
Week 11 (Nov. 28) Research for social change	Da Silva (2015) Harper et al (2009)
Week 12 (Dec. 5) + Poster Presentations	See Handout # 2



Course Requirements

This course requires ongoing reading, writing, collaborative work and class discussion.

Participation 10%

Students are expected to contribute to class discussion throughout the term.

Each week, our class will start with work on the readings ("study guides"). Class discussion will follow, before a lecture is delivered. Students are expected to share and exchange ideas and analysis of the readings with the rest of the class.

Your level of engagement with the workshops will contribute to your participation grade as well.

The participation grade for this course will be based on your contributions to class discussions by asking questions, responding to a question, and making insightful comments. Listening and engaging with other students' ideas is also expected.

Workshops 15% (5% each)

The course offers three embedded workshops where students have the opportunity to work on their research proposals in class.

Workshops are aimed at supporting students and help them create a "research dossier," with notes and analysis on how the research is progressing and the challenges encountered.

The dates for these workshops are: Weeks 3, 5, and 10.

Grade is calculated based on attendance, engagement, and quality of material produced during these workshops. Specific details of these workshops will be given in class.

In-class Responses 20% (2 x 10)

On **weeks 4** and **9**, students will be required to write a critical response to a question posed in class in relation to assigned readings up to that week. This is an "open book" exercise.

Handout # 1 offers additional guidelines for this assignment (see OWL).

GRADES DESCRIPTION

Exceptional = above 90 (A+)

Went beyond expectations in all categories. One could expect little more from a student at this level.

Strong = 80-89 (A)

Superior work which is clearly above average.

Average = 70-79 (B)

Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory.

Average/Weaker = 60-69 (C)

Displayed average capability in some categories but no particular strengths. Meets basic requirements.

Not acceptable = below 50 (F)

Failure. Work is unsatisfactory and does not meet basic requirements.

Research Proposal 40%

Please note that this assignment has two parts: Literature Review (10%) and Final Proposal (30%)

As part of this course, you will be asked to formulate your own research project involving critical and anti-oppressive research methodologies.

Handout # 2 provides additional guidelines for this assignment, including the specific set of questions and sections that need to be addressed.

The Literature Review is due on **Week 8** (in class). The final research proposal is due on **Dec. 12** (via OWL)

Poster Presentation 15%

On **Week 13**, each student will have the opportunity to share with the rest of the class her or his research project. Guidelines for these presentations will be provided in class.

High Attendance (Bonus): up to 3 marks

Attendance to class is highly expected and your absence will make us miss the potential contributions you can make. However, we cannot decide for you what your priorities or needs as a student are.

Students with a high attendance record (i.e., 11 or more classes) and meaningful class participation may have up to 3 marks added to the final grade.

Please note: In case of absences justified under university rules, contact your academic advisor. Attendance records will be updated accordingly after receiving confirmation from the academic advising office.

Course Requirements Summary

Participation	10%	Ongoing (OWL)
Workshops	15% (5% each)	Weeks 3, 5, 10
In-Class Responses	20% (10% each)	Weeks 4 and 9
Research Proposal	10% Lit. Review	Week 8
	30% Final Proposal	Dec. 12
Poster Presentation	15%	Week 13



Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

Identify and assess the contributions critical and anti-oppressive methodologies make to social research.

Outline and demonstrate critical awareness on the ways in which critical and anti-oppressive research methodologies contribute to collective emancipatory goals.

Mobilize (i.e., apply) key elements of critical and anti-oppressive research methodologies in order to develop your own approach to critical research.

In-class responses and weekly study guides

In-class responses and weekly study guides

Embedded workshops, Research Project, and Poster Presentation

“For apart from inquiry, apart from the praxis, individuals cannot be truly human. Knowledge emerges only through invention and re-invention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other.”

Paulo Freire (1968)



Contact information

Email policy

The best way to reach me is via email:

lsavino2@uwo.ca

I will do my best to reply as soon as possible. If you do not get an immediate reply, please allow at least 48 hours if you need to send me a reminder.

I usually do not check my emails after 5pm or on weekends.

Important! Please use the course number as part of the subject line for your emails. This will ensure a faster reply as my electronic correspondence gets sorted automatically.

Due to privacy guidelines, you should use your university email account for contacting me.

Make an appointment

If you want to meet in person and you are unable to meet during office hours, please contact me and make an appointment.

“The ways in which scientific research is implicated in the worst excesses of colonialism remains a powerful remembered history for many of the world’s colonized peoples.”

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, 2012

A note on returned assignments and appeals

Frequently students wish to discuss the results of their assignments immediately upon receiving their grade and feedback. Every effort will be made to provide substantial feedback on assignments with the intention of making the grading clear, and also to help you improve regardless of the grade an assignment receives.

If you still have questions or concerns about your grade, please make an appointment to see me and discuss further. You must wait 24 hours after receiving your assignment and grade before contacting me to discuss your results. Please set up an appointment no later than 7 days after receiving your grade if you wish to meet and discuss, or appeal.

You may also appeal your overall grade, or the grade of any specific assignment. These are the steps:

1. Have an informed discussion with me. This step must be initiated (i.e. set up an appointment) within 7 days of receiving your grade.

2. If you still find the explanation of your grade unsatisfactory, you may appeal your grade in writing. This written submission must be sent to me within 14 days of receiving your grade. You are to write a formal letter indicating the ways in which you believe your assignment met the requirements – with evidence cited – as well as the grade you believe you deserve for your work.

Please keep in mind that the onus is on you to demonstrate that your work meets the requirement set out for the assignment, and not for me to defend the mark allocated.

No grade change will be considered without submitting a formal appeal in writing.



**KEEP
CALM
&
FOLLOW
THE RULES**

For more information about the University’s appeal guidelines visit:
uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf

The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site