

INDSTU 4903G: Indigenous Research and Methodologies

Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2026

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 Objectives and Format

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Students will be introduced to culturally responsive Indigenous research methodologies and gain an understanding of the application of specific research methods within this framing.
7. Students will develop an appreciation for some of the challenges encountered within the application of Indigenous research methodologies within institutional and community partnerships.

8. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students 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.

