

Aboriginal Mental Health and Addiction

This seminar course will consist of an in-depth exploration of mental health and addiction among Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Course Information:

Seminar Times:	Tuesday 7pm-10pm
Seminar Location:	AT2003
Exam Location:	Computer Lab
Instructor:	Dr. Christopher Mushquash, C.Psych.
Contact Information:	chris.mushquash@lakeheadu.ca
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 5-7pm or by appointment
Office Location:	SN 1020
Graduate Assistant:	Staci Person
Contact Information:	smperson@lakeheadu.ca
Office Hours:	By appointment
Office Location:	SN1003

Expectations:

This is a fourth year, seminar course.

1. Students will attend all class meetings on time. If you are unable to attend class, or will be late, please inform the graduate assistant AND instructor in advance. Unexcused absences and lateness is not expected at the fourth year level.
2. Students will read the assigned readings prior to the seminar meeting.
3. Students will participate in discussions and lead seminars as assigned.
4. The last day to drop this course is Friday, March 10, 2017. The reason I mention this is because Senate passed a motion on June 18, 2013 pertaining to timely feedback: *Lakehead University recognizes that it is important to provide timely and constructive feedback on all academic work. For all courses, at least 25% (for one term courses) and 30% (for two term courses) of the final grade shall be provided to students prior to the last day to withdraw without academic penalty for the course.*

Course Format and Evaluation:

Each week, the instructor and students will meet to discuss the assigned reading material and to review discussion questions generated by the instructor. In order to ensure success in the course, students are encouraged to complete the assigned readings, attend seminars, ask questions, and participate in discussion.

Evaluation	Date	Value
Reflections (3 in total)	Ongoing	30%
Examination 1 – Computer Lab	February 14, 2017	35%
Examination 2 – Computer Lab	March 28, 2017	35%
	Total	100%

The course requirements and weights are final and will not be adjusted. Requests for special consideration should be directed to the course instructor. Exceptions may be made in extenuating circumstances provided the student presents legitimate and documented reasons for failing to complete stated course requirements.

Participation:

This is a fourth year, seminar course. You will be expected to read the assignments and be able to discuss what you have read. You will not receive participation points for simply talking. You will be expected to comment in a way that is substantive and defensible, while demonstrating an understanding of the seminar content. Please note the scheduled meeting times. If you do not attend class and do not participate in discussion, it will be difficult for you to do well in this course.

Reflections: Each week

Each student will complete three (3) reflection papers (one page, double-spaced, APA format) worth 30% of the final grade (each one is worth 10% of your final grade). The assignment format will be discussed during class and is due **ongoing** at 700pm. Note, February 14, 2017 is the LAST day you can hand in your reflection papers from the first half of the semester. After that date, no reflection papers on first half topics will be accepted. Likewise, April 4, 2017, is the LAST day you can hand in your reflection papers from the second half of the semester. So, to be clear, if your reflection papers are not submitted by the deadlines, they will not be accepted. There are nine (9) different dates this semester that you could write about so you only have to complete a reflection paper one third (1/3) of the time. Students are encouraged to submit their assignments early, via email, to the Graduate Assistant (cc'd to Dr. Mushquash). You can submit as many as five (5) reflections in total, with your three (3) best marks being counted toward your final grade. I would not recommend leaving your reflection papers until right before the final due date(s). You will notice that the final due dates for reflection papers coincide with the examination dates. Why do this to yourself?! This is a fourth year course and your assignment will be marked as such. In addition to content and completeness, you will be evaluated on writing style, clarity, and organization of ideas. Please see my note on writing paragraphs. Please see my marking rubric.

Paragraphs

Good paragraphs generally have three components: a topic sentence, supporting details, and a closing sentence. The topic sentence introduces the main idea to be presented in the paragraph. The supporting details develop and support the main idea of the paragraph. These sentences must provide facts, details, and examples, and leads to some understanding of the point of your paragraph. The closing sentence summarizes the point of your paragraph. Following this structure is a useful way to ensure you construct a good paragraph.

Examination 1: February 14, 2017 –Computer Lab

The examination will consist mostly of long-answer questions (with a few short answer/multiple choice questions). Each week, the instructor will email one to five (1-5) discussion questions related to the topics discussed in class. The final examination will consist of a subset of these questions. If you keep up with your readings, and answer the discussion questions as they are emailed, you will find the examination easy. You are required to write the examination on the scheduled date.

Examination 2: March 28, 2017 –Computer Lab

The examination will consist mostly of long-answer questions (with a few short answer/multiple choice questions). Each week, the instructor will email one to five (1-5) discussion questions related to the topics discussed in class. The final examination will consist of a subset of these questions. If you keep up with your readings, and answer the discussion questions as they are emailed, you will find the final examination easy. You are required to write the examination on the scheduled date.

Q: What will the exam look like?

A: Good question. See below.

Examination 1

You will be given three (3) hours to complete this examination. No extra time will be given. However, you should have no problem finishing within the given time limit. This exam is worth 35% of your final mark. You must answer three (3) questions. You may weight the value of each question (in percent) however, the lowest you are allowed to weight a question is 5%. Please indicate the questions you will answer, and desired weights in the boxes below:

Question	Weight (%)
Short Answer and Multiple Choice	10%
1	
2	
3	
	= 100%

Note. Special test times will be granted on religious, medical, or compassionate grounds with supporting documentation provided before the test date. Tests will not be returned to students. Cheating will not be tolerated; please see the section on “*Course and University Policies*” at the end of this syllabus.

Bonus Opportunity:

Students can earn up to two percent (2%) bonus on their final grade by participating in research being conducted in the Psychology Department. Please provide proof of participation to the course Graduate Assistant by April 7, 2017. If you do not wish to participate in research, you may submit a paper discussing research methods in Aboriginal mental health and addiction. This paper must be no less than 5 pages (double-spaced) and no more than 10 pages. Please pay close attention to APA format.

Reevaluation Requests:

If you feel unfairly evaluated on the examination or assignment, you may submit a written request for reevaluation to the instructor that clearly indicates the reason for your request. Be aware that upon reevaluation, your mark may increase or stay the same, but it may also decrease.

Accommodations:

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities and/or medical conditions to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please contact Student Accessibility Services <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca> (SC0003, 343-8047 or sas@lakeheadu.ca).

Contacting Your Instructor:

Due to the volume of email I receive, please enter "Psychology 4811" in the subject line of any email you send so it is directed to the appropriate mail folder, otherwise your message may not be read. If the required contact is very minimal, email exchanges may be enough, however, I welcome you to make an appointment to meet with me or attend my office hours. Please note: your instructor should not be the first person you contact with a question about the course or content of the course. Please check the course syllabus first, and then ask the graduate assistant. Google is also a very useful place to start, as is the LU library!

Optional Presentation (April 4, 2017):

Presenting information to others effectively is one of the most important skills you can learn. No matter where your studies take you, you will be more effective in your work if you can discuss complex and, and at times, sensitive content with others. Students will have the option to lead a no less than 10-minute but no more than 15-minute discussion on a topic related to Aboriginal mental health and addiction presented in the media. This is an opportunity for students to stay up to date on issues related to mental health and addiction issues among Aboriginal peoples and discuss these issues in the context of an understanding of literature and evidence. Presenting will not affect your grade in the course but is an opportunity for you to develop and practice important skills.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change throughout the semester):

January 10, 2017

Introduction/overview/the entire course in one evening

January 17, 2017

KAIROS Canada Blanket Activity (Please note, location is UC 1029G)

January 24, 2017

Historic Context

January 31, 2017

Disorders and diagnosis

February 7, 2017

Social Determinants of mental health and addiction

2017

Psychology 4811 WA

February 14, 2017

Examination 1, Reflection Papers from first half of semester due

February 21, 2017

Reading Week

February 28, 2017

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

March 7, 2017

Mental health and addiction and other systems; Justice, Child Welfare

March 14, 2017

Honouring Our Strengths and the Mental Wellness Continuum Framework

March 21, 2017

Research, Ownership, Control, Access, Possession (OCAP) and Tri-Council Policy Statement 2, Chapter 9

March 28, 2017

Examination 2, Reflection Papers from second half of semester due

April 4, 2017

Presentations

LU Academic Standing:

A+	90-100%
A 1 st Class Standing	80-89%
B	70-79%
C	60-69%
D	50-59%
E Fail	40-49%
F Fail	1-39%
F Academic Dishonesty	0

Course and University Policies:*Academic Dishonesty*

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced. A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

(a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.

(b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "*Plagiarism*" shall be deemed to include:

Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or end noting.

Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or end noting is given.

Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or end noting is given.

Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures:

<http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60>