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NAS 560.01: Methods and Sources in Native American Studies

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NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES 560

Methods and Sources in Native American Studies

Professor: Kathryn Shanley

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Office Hrs: W 1-3 & by appt.

Catalog Description

Prerequisite, consent of instructor. Methods, sources for, and actual experiences in the use of field observations, interviews, special collections, federal records, and library materials in Native American Studies research and writing. Required of all Native American Studies affiliated graduate students.

Course Description

This course will be conducted as a combination of independent study and instruction. Times for meetings will be set after the first meeting in accordance with the schedules of instructor and students. A range of skills will be learned through reading and hands-on experience, including discussion of interview techniques, theoretical approaches to the field of Native American Studies and the ethics of doing research among indigenous peoples. Although our primary focus will be historical and social science research, we will also discuss literary and artistic projects requiring research and writing.

Course Objectives

1. To understand the research process, particularly how to move from a research topic to a researchable question.
2. To develop skills in notetaking, organizing materials, developing outlines, compiling bibliographies, and other aspects of study and research.
3. To develop skills in archival exploration in a range of sources.
4. To understand the basics of interviewing.
5. To understand the ethical and legal responsibilities of research relative to indigenous intellectual property rights.

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to develop a draft of a research proposal (30%), compile an annotated bibliography (30%), and write a research paper (40%) on a topic of his or her choice. Throughout the term, small exercises and writing assignments will be required for developing skills in research and development of writing projects.

Incompletes and Student Conduct Code

Please see the student handbook for information on incompletes and drops. Both copyright laws and University policies are rigid regarding plagiarism—"the representing of another's work as one's own." Please consult the "Academic Policies and Procedures" section of the current University catalog for details regarding penalties for plagiarism.

Required Texts

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*
Charles L. Briggs. *Learning How to Ask: A Sociolinguistic Appraisal of the Role of the Interview in Social Science Research.*
Louise Grenier. *Working with Indigenous Knowledge: A Guide for Researchers.*
David R. Krathwohl. *How to Prepare a Research Proposal.*

Recommended Texts

M. Neil Browne, Stuart M. Keeley. *Asking the Right Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking*
Chris Hart. *Doing a Literature Review.*
Russell Thornton, editor. *Studying Native America: Problems and Prospects.*

Tentative Syllabus

Week One:

Week Two:

Week Three:

Week Four:

Week Five:

Week Six:

Week Seven:

Week Eight:

Week Nine:

Week Ten:

Week Eleven:

Week Twelve:

Week Thirteen:

Week Fourteen: