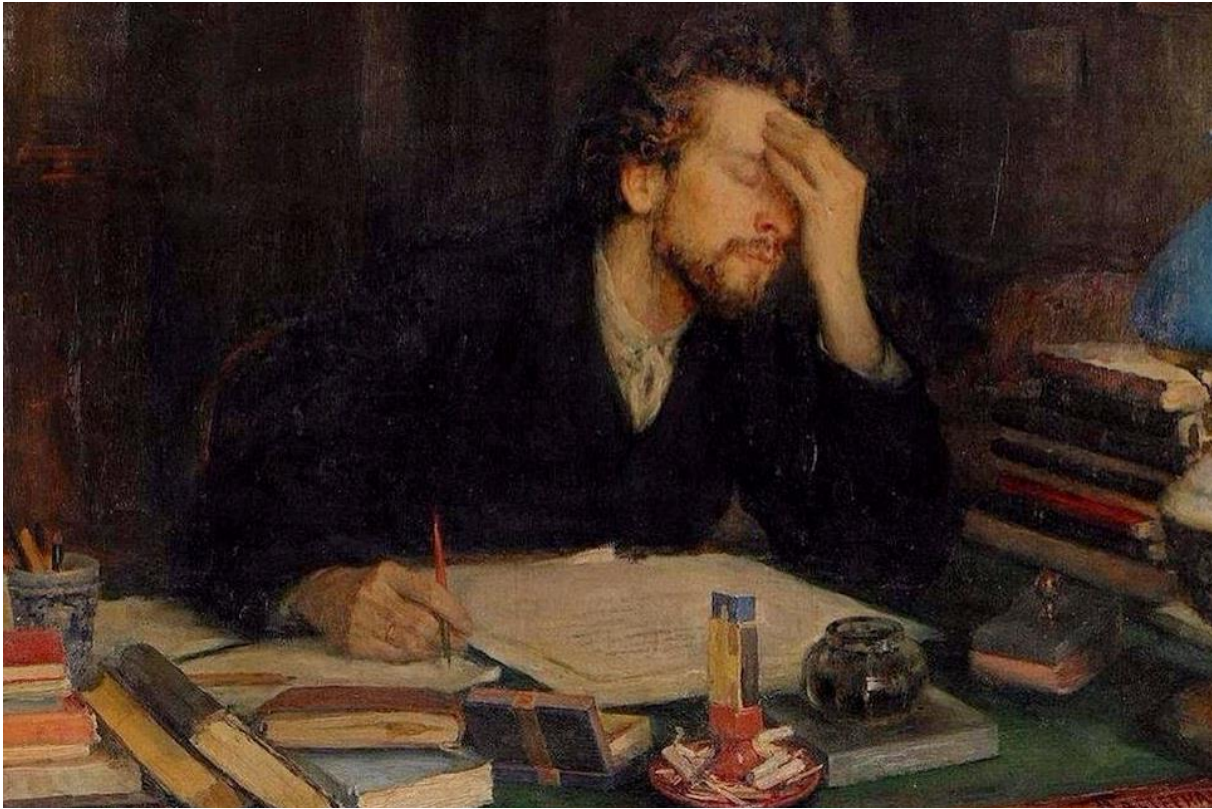


# APPROACHES TO RESEARCH



## Interdisciplinary Studies 1101F

**Weekly Zoom Meetings: Tue. 11:30-1:30 & Thu. 11:30-12:30**

**Professor:** Dr. John P. Hope  
**Email:** jhope24@huron.uwo.ca  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Prerequisites:** Enrolment in Huron's Scholar's Electives program

### Course Description

This course introduces the skills needed to develop research questions and build a research project, including disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to research, principles and practices of research methods, and information literacy. We will focus on the process of research, the ways it can be approached, and the issues it raises.

### Learning Objectives

This course aims to help students to:

- Identify and apply a wide range of disciplinary perspectives
- Analyze and apply different methodological approaches to research
- Discuss and apply ethical principals in research conduct
- Develop oral and written presentation skills

## **Course Method**

This course will include research skills seminars, workshops, and discussions of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research methods. Over the term, students will engage in multiple modes of inquiry, including standard lectures, literature review, in-class and online discussions, critical learning reflections, and oral presentations.

In the first weeks of the semester the course will be taught online, with live Zoom meetings 11:30-1:30 on Tuesdays and 11:30-12:30 on Thursdays. (Tuesday's classes will generally run for one hour within the 11:30-1:30 window.) We will pivot to in-person classes on campus when the situation permits. We will also conduct asynchronous conversations using the OWL Forums tool. From the beginning of the term until Fall Reading Week, the basic pattern will be guest lectures on Tuesdays, followed by discussions on Thursdays. Tuesday's lectures will be given by a variety of guest speakers in different fields. They will often involve readings to be done before the class meets. Thursday's Zoom discussions will focus on the issues raised by the speakers, and will be preceded and followed by posts on OWL Forums. Following Fall Reading Week, the rest of the term will be devoted to group work and the creation of a group project, which will be presented on the last day of class.

If you are located in a distant time zone or have some other insurmountable barrier to participating in the live Zoom discussions, you must let me know so we can make alternate arrangements.

## **Assessment**

Grades will be determined by the following assignments:

- Preparation and participation: 25%
- Critical learning reflections: 25%
- OWL discussions: 25%
- Group Presentation: 25%

This course does not have a final exam.

## **Preparation and Participation**

This class is a collaborative effort, and students are expected to be fully engaged. Your final participation grade will reflect the frequency of your participation in class discussion and the quality of your contributions.

## **Critical Learning Reflections**

You will write a series of weekly reflections documenting your learning over the course. More details on how written critical reflections should be organized will be provided, and we will have a virtual workshop on reflective writing during the first week of class. Weekly reflection entries are due no later than 6:00 pm each Monday during the academic term.

## **OWL Discussions**

For each guest lecture, you will contribute to our OWL discussion thread (accessed via the Forums tab). After each presentation you will be asked to write one post and to make at least one comment in response to a classmate's post in advance of Thursday's class. After Thursday's class you will again write one post and at least one response to a classmate or moderator before the next lecture on the following Tuesday. In most cases the OWL discussion threads will be moderated by upper-year Scholar's Electives students who will be serving as mentors. Your grade will reflect the depth of your engagement and the quality of your participation.

## **Group Project and Presentation**

The class will participate in a group project that will culminate in a formal oral presentation on the last day of the course. More details on the project will be provided in class and on OWL.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Thu.	9/9	<b>Library Workshop: Reflective Writing</b> (Mandy Penney, Writing Services) <b>11:30-12:30</b>
Tue.	9/14	<b>Antiracist Research Methods</b> (Dr. Kate Lawless, Global Studies) <b>12:30-1:30</b>
Thu.	9/16	Discussion
Tue.	9/21	<b>The Construction of Ignorance</b> (Dr. Jennifer Epp, Philosophy) <b>12:15-1:30</b>
Thu.	9/23	Discussion
Tue.	9/28	<b>Research Using Surveys</b> (Dr. Irene Cheung, Psychology) <b>11:30-12:30</b>
Thu.	9/30	Discussion
Tue.	10/5	<b>Historical Methods and Public Scholarship</b> (Dr. Tim Compeau, History) <b>12:30-1:30</b>
Thu.	10/7	Discussion
Tue.	10/12	<b>Experimental Design and Consumer Research</b> (Dr. Matthew Maxwell-Smith) <b>12:30-1:30</b>
Thu.	10/14	Discussion
Tue.	10/19	<b>Lecture TBA</b>
Thu.	10/21	Discussion
Tue.	10/26	<b>Group Project Overview</b>
Thu.	10/28	<b>Library Workshop: Research Skills</b> Guest: Dr. Rachel Melis, Teaching and Learning Librarian
Tue.	11/2	<i>Fall Reading Week</i>
Thu.	11/4	<i>Fall Reading Week</i>
Tue.	11/9	<b>Putting the Pieces Together: Group Brainstorming Session</b>
Thu.	11/11	Putting the Pieces Together: Group Project Planning
Tue.	11/16	Group Work
Thu.	11/18	Group Work
Tue.	11/23	Group Work
Thu.	11/25	Group Work
Tue.	11/30	Group Work
Thu.	12/2	Group Work
Tue.	12/7	<b>Group Presentation</b>

## **Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022**

### **Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### **Pandemic Contingency**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, typically using a combination of synchronous instruction (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) and asynchronous material (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor. In the unlikely event that changes to the grading scheme are necessary, these changes will be clearly communicated as soon as possible.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

### **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/attendance.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf).

### **Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf). The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf).

### **Turnitin.com**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

### **Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)**

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

### **Academic Consideration for Missed Work**

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf) are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>.

## **Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence**

### **(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

### **(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca).**

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca) for any further questions or information.

### **Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>  
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>  
Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academic-support.uwo.ca/>  
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>  
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

### **Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western**

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: [huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca)  
Community Safety Office: [safety@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:safety@huron.uwo.ca)  
Chaplaincy: [gthorne@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:gthorne@huron.uwo.ca)

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.