

NECU 5101 –Theory and Methodology (Fall 2012)

Instructors: Dr. Robert Stewart (Fall) and Dr. Adam Cornwell (Winter)
Rob.Stewart@lakeheadu.ca
RC 3000 (807) 766-7181

Text: Gray (2009), Doing Research in the Real World

Journal Articles: Assigned each week

Course description:

The Fall term of this course is designed to accomplish two major goals:

1. To understand the role of theory in graduate research and to explore and scrutinize the potential methodologies that will help you to adequately collect the data and information needed to answer your research questions and achieve your overall thesis objectives
2. To develop a first draft of your theoretical and methodological literature review (in close collaboration with your supervisor) and consider the strengths and limitations of your potential field work.

These goals are designed to give you adequate intellectual time to structure your overall research plan and be prepared to present this plan during a public forum in February/March, where it will be scrutinized by all the NECU faculty.

Most importantly the course is designed to help you identify potential problems, limitations or issues that often arise when implementing your research plan and to encourage you to interact with other graduate researchers and faculty who may have expertise that can help to prepare you for your field research.

Evaluation

One-page Funding Proposal (Due October 8)	10%
Theoretical Literature Review (Due October 29)	30%
Methodological literature review (Due November 12)	30%
Example Research Proposal (Due November 26)	30%

Date	Class Topic
September 10	Introduction to the Course and the Role of Graduate Researcher
September 17	Topic 1 – Theoretical Perspectives and Research Methodologies (Gray Chapters 1 and 2)
September 23-24	Northern Environments and Cultures Land-Based Learning Opportunity on Nanibijou
October 1	Topic 2 – Selecting and Planning Research Proposals and Projects (Gray Chapters 3 and 4)
October 8	Thanks Giving – NO CLASS
October 15	Topic 3 – The Role of the Literature and the Place of the Researcher (Gray Chapter 5)
October 22	Topic 4 – Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods (Gray Chapters 6 and 7)
October 29	Topic 5 – Using Mixed Methods and Participatory Action Research (Gray Chapters 8 and 12)
November 5	Topic 6 – Using A Case Study (Gray Chapter 10)
November 12	Topic 7 – Structure of the Graduate Research Proposal (Reading TBA)
November 19	Topic 8 - Logistics of field work (Reading TBA)
November 26	Topic 9 – Review of your Draft Research Proposal