Time: Tuesday: 2:30pm - 5:30 pm;  
Place: RB 3046

Instructor: Zubairu Wai
Office: RB 2041
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1pm – 2pm
Email: zubawai@lakeheadu.ca

Course Descriptions
What is research methodology? How are research methods related to the practice and politics of knowledge production in the social sciences and humanities? What are the diverse ways in which knowledge and research can be approached? In this course, we will examine various methodological approaches to social science inquiry. The course seeks to acquaint students with the necessary tools for crafting and undertaking social science research. We will ask how different theories and politics of knowing and being shape the kind of research we engage in, and how different social scientists think about knowledge production and how that ultimately reflects the methods that they employ. We will explore the conditions of knowledge production, the methodological diverseness of social scientific practice, the assumptions underpinning the various epistemological positions and methodological approaches, and the implications of deploying specific research methods. Students will engage in various exercises geared towards familiarising them with the practices, techniques and ethics of research and knowledge production. The course will be part lecture and part seminar, based on student’s presentations, class discussions, group work and individual assignments.

Requirements and Evaluation
Students are required to regularly attend classes, do the assigned readings before coming to class, do at least one class presentations as assigned per week and take part in class discussions; complete a five-page (double-spaced) critical reflection paper, engage in a group work and submit a 8 – 10 page (double-spaced, fonts 12) research proposal. All written work must be submitted on time.

The final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

- Presentation: 20%
- Critical Review: 20%
- Group Work: 25%
- Research proposal: 35%

Note:
The critical review essay is a five-page double-spaced [12 point fonts] essay that critically engages with one of the major questions in the social sciences. The group work is a quantitative
research proposal and the final paper is a full length research proposal based on qualitative research techniques and methods.

**Required texts:**

1. W. Lawrence Neuman, *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative 7e* (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2009)


4. Additional readings in course Kit

**Students with Special Needs**

Students with special needs can request accommodations in accordance with the Senate Policy on Students with Disabilities. Please endeavour at the earliest opportunity to advice the Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Learning Assistance Centre) and the course instructor of your special needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made to accommodate such needs. Those who encounter extenuating circumstances which may interfere with the successful completion of the course should, as soon as possible, discuss these circumstances with the course instructor and the Student Accessibility Services.

**Lakehead Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to uphold the academic honour code at all times and are advised to familiarise themselves with the university policy on academic dishonesty, especially in relation, but not limited, to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation etc. Violation of this policy can lead to serious consequences.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 (Jan. 10): Introduction to the Course**

**PART I: - SOME BASIC PROBLEMS WITH KNOWLEDGE**

**Week 2 (Jan. 17): Science and Social Inquiry**

Readings

W. Lawrence Neuman, *Social Research Methods*, Chs. 1 & 2


[Thursday 19 January is the Final Date of Registration]

**Week 3 (Jan. 24): Ontology and Epistemology in Social Inquiry**

**Readings**


Peter Hall, “Aligning Ontology and Methodology in Comparative Research,” in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer (eds.), *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003)

**Week 4 (Jan. 31): Theory, Methodology and Modes of Inquiry**

**Readings**

W. Lawrence Neuman, *Social Research Methods*, Chs. 3 & 4


**Week 5 (Feb. 7): Power, Knowledge and Social Inquiry**

**Readings**


Linda T. Smith, *Decolonising Methodologies*; Introduction; Chs. 1, 2 & 3

Edward Said, Orientalism (New York: Vintage, 1978); Introduction

**PART II: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS**

**Week 6 (Feb 14): Quantitative Research Design**

**Readings**

W. Lawrence Neuman, Social Research Methods, Chapters. 6 & 7


[Note: Critical review paper is due]

**Week 7 (Feb 21): Reading Week: no class**

**Week 8 (Feb 28): Surveys, Sampling and Statistical Analysis**

**Reading**

W. Lawrence Neuman, Social Research Methods, Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12

**Week 9 (March 6): Qualitative Research Design**

**Reading**

W. Lawrence Neuman, Social Research Methods, Chapters 6 & 7


[Wednesday 7 March is the Final Date for Withdrawal without Academic Penalty]

[Note: Group assignment due in class]
**Week 10 (March 13): Field Research and Ethnography**

Reading

W. Lawrence Neuman, *Social Research Methods*, Chapters 13 & 15


**Week 11 (March 20): Marxist & Comparative Approaches**

Reading

W. Lawrence Neuman, *Social Research Methods*, Chapters 14 & 15


**Week 12 (March 27): Discourse Analysis and Deconstruction**

Reading


Aubrey Neal, “Promise and Practice of Deconstruction” *Canadian Journal of History* Vol. 30, April 1995, pp. 49 – 76,


**Week 13 (April 3): Aboriginal Concerns and Research Agendas**

Reading
Linda T. Smith, *Decolonising Methodologies*; chapters 6 – 10

[Note: Final paper – Research Proposal - due at the end of class]

**April 10 – 20: Examination Period. There will be no exam for this course**