



How to have a successful year in Native Studies (all courses)

- There are several key components to having a successful year in any Native Studies Course. The following is an outline of what one could be aware of throughout the year.

Notes on the Board

- This is only the first of many things to note. When anything is written on the board, i.e.: Diagrams, Abbreviated Notes, Charts, etc., these are always key points.
- Also, you should expand on what is written on the board. Sometimes, board notes can be a starting point for a student to take notes; it's not always the entire story!

Overheads

- Overhead notes are given to provide you with important information that may be hard to follow by simply lecturing.
- As with Board Notes, the Overhead notes are given as a guideline; one should expand on them.

Lectures

- As in all Native cultures, there will be elements of oral traditions in every lecture. As important as Board Notes and Overheads are, what the professor lectures is equally as important.
- One strategy would be to leave space on the page, so as notes are recorded from overheads or the board, one can insert what is being lectured.

Films

- Films are used to compliment course material, to verify and fortify what is presented in class.

Guest Speakers

- There will be times when guest speakers will visit the class. When they are here, please don't be shy to note what they teach. Sometimes, they may cover something that was not presented in a lecture, or a handout.
- One should also ask as many questions as possible, to get the most out of the presentation.

Experiential Activities

- Experiential Activities provide a doorway into another culture. They allow students to experience what others experience.
- They can provide a further understanding of how something works.
- These also fortify what is learned. Instead of just writing about it, or learning from a book, one can experience it.

Texts / Course Packs / Required Readings

- Required readings are important as they can help when learning a topic. At the beginning of class, it is good to have all required readings done as they introduce or fortify what is covered in class.

Attendance

- Attendance is important in many ways.
- Nipissing University requires all students to attend at least 80% of classes (see the Academic Calendar for details).
- Attendance is the best way to obtain lecture notes, and experience the class first hand.
- Copying someone else's notes can be a very weak substitute at times and lacks one's own direct involvement in what was learned.

Essays

- Independent research allows students to go beyond the class notes and lectures. They provide the opportunity to explore areas that may not be explored in class.
- When choosing a topic, one should select something that interests them. This helps the essay writer keep interested in the topic.

Tests/Exams

- Test/Exam questions can be derived from anything. One should consider everything covered throughout the year and be prepared that any material learned can be tested, including from the above mentioned sources.
- All of the above elements can be used when answering exam questions.