

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Title: Living Arts - Minookmi/Niibin (Spring/Summer)

Semester: 1997 S

Code Number: FSA 102

Program: Four Seasons Anishinaabe Art Journey

Author: School of Native Education

Date: April 1997

APPROVED: 
Dean, School of Native Education

DATE: May 97

I. Philosophy/Goals

The Living Arts courses are intended to foster an understanding of the role art has in the retention and preservation of Anishinaabe culture. Participants will study various living mediums of Anishinaabe art and exploring the use of those mediums hands-on. Living Arts courses relate to the current season and do not need to be taken sequentially. Living Arts - Minookmi/Niibin will examine birchbark harvesting, storage, and crafts, as well as quill work on birch bark. The Ojibwe language will be used when possible in this course.

II. Student Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

Use the developed and/or enhanced proficiency in creating birchbark, sweetgrass, and quillwork arts and crafts .

Use Anishinaabe vocabulary pertaining to birchbark and quillwork arts and crafts

III. Topics to be Covered

Birch bark crafts and quill work on birch bark

IV. Learning Activities and Assignments

The information and material to be covered in the sixteen weeks of the course include:

A. Birchbark harvesting

- Process for birchbark harvesting
- Class field trip to harvest birchbark
- Preserving and storing birchbark
- Traditional teachings relating to birchbark

B. Sweet grass harvesting

- Process for sweetgrass harvesting
- Class field trip to harvest sweetgrass
- Preserving and storing birchbark
- Traditional teachings relating to birchbark

C. Birch bark crafts

- Introduction of projects that may be done with birchbark - ie. From traditional mukluks to contemporary picture frames.
- Work sessions
- Making a birchbark craft item

D. Quill working

- Using quill work on birch bark
- Student quill work projects
- Preparation, cleaning and dyeing porcupine quills

V. Evaluation

Project #1 - Gathering and Preparation birchbark	10%
Project #2 - Gathering and Preparation of sweetgrass	10%
Project #2 - Birch bark craft	30%
Project #3 - Birch bark craft with quill work	35%
Written Assignment	<u>15%</u>
TOTAL	100%

For **PROJECT #1**, the students will be responsible for harvesting and preparing their own birchbark for use in their craft projects. They will be shown by the instructor the proper techniques and will be given teachings to ensure that respect has been given for the gathering of these materials.

For **PROJECT #2**, the students will harvest and prepare their own sweetgrass for use in their craft projects. They will be shown by the instructor the traditional harvesting techniques and will be provided with teachings to ensure that respect has been given for the harvesting of the sweetgrass.

In **PROJECT #3**, the student will design and create a specific birch bark craft. Further instructions will be given by the instructor.

In **PROJECT #4**, the student will design and create another birchbark craft that will also include quill work and sweetgrass. Further instructions will be given by the instructor.

In the **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT**, the student will be required to submit a 5-10 page essay on the different crafts, traditional implements (ie. pots, bowls, etc) that can be made with birchbark. They will be required to research this report and be able to note the differences in the designs of products based on the cultural group that created them. Research should be obtained from the library from the book section and also from the computer resources (ie. Internet and CD ROM).

SPECIAL NOTES:

Students with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairment, learning disabilities) are encouraged to discuss required accommodations confidentially with the instructor.

Your instructor reserves the rights to modify the course as he/she deems necessary to

meet the needs of students.

Significant learning takes place in the classroom through an interactive learning approach, therefore, ALL students must attend 60% of the classes to obtain a passing grade.

ALL assignments are to be handed in on the due date and are to be typewritten. Any late assignments will be penalized 1% per each day late.

COLLEGE EVALUATION SYSTEM:

Letter grades, for transcript purposes, will be calculated as follows:

90% - 100% = A+

80% - 89% = A

70% - 79% = B

69% - 69% = C

Below 60% = R (Repeat of the course)