Independent Study and Final: Unit Overview

NBE3U, Grade 11 English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices (University), Unit 7. 8 lessons (9 classes of 75 minutes), with ISU check-ins spread through the semester.

The big question

What can you show, on your own, about a book by a First Nations, Métis or Inuit author, and how do you join the conversation about it with care?

The last unit of NBE3U. Early in the semester, each student chooses a teacher-approved book by a First Nations, Métis or Inuit author, finds the author's own words about the book, and reads it alongside the units, with three short check-ins on voice and form, the course's themes (identity, relationships, and self-determination, sovereignty or self-governance) and connections. At the end of the course, students write a 1,200 to 1,500 word comparative essay connecting their book to a course text, naming and citing authors and communities respectfully, and lead a small-group seminar (culminating task, part of classroom work). Review lessons cover a sight-text routine, review stations, a timed practice and a writing portfolio. The final exam (25%, written in the exam period) uses an original story, “Maker: Unknown,” told by a non-Indigenous student working at a small museum, with analysis questions, a literary essay on course texts and a teacher marking guide.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**Choose Your Book**	1	Which book will I study?	C1.1, C5.1, D1.1	Book tasting; the author's own words; proposal (run early)
2	**ISU Check-ins**	3 × 20 min	How is my reading developing?	C1.4, C1.6, C4.1	Voice and form; themes; connections
3	**Comparative Essay Workshop**	1	How do I compare two texts with respect?	D1.4, D2.7, C1.5	Comparative thesis; woven paragraph; citing with care
4	**ISU Seminar**	2	Can I lead a discussion with care?	B3.3, B3.2, C5.2	10-minute seminars (culminating task)
5	**Reading the Unseen**	1	How do I read an unseen text?	C1.4, C2.3, C1.2, C3.2	Five-step routine; original practice text
6	**Course Review Stations**	1	How do the units connect?	A1.6, A3.3, C1.6	Six stations; essay planning
7	**Practice and Conferences**	1	Am I ready?	D3.5, D3.7, D4.1, D4.2	Timed practice; proofreading; conferences
8	**Looking Back**	1	How have I grown?	D4.3, C4.2, B4.1, E4.1	Portfolio; reflection; reading list

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Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Book proposal, check-ins, comparative planner, practice answers, station sheet
Assessment as learning	Peer responses, self-assessments, exam plan, portfolio and reflection
Assessment of learning	Culminating task (classroom work): comparative essay and ISU seminar, with rubrics. final exam (25%, written in the exam period): original sight text with six questions (40 marks) and a literary essay (40 marks), with a rubric and a teacher marking guide

Texts

Included:

- **Original sight text:** “Maker: Unknown,” a short story written for the final evaluation (about 1,000 words), with questions and a marking guide
- **Original practice text:** “Questions First,” for Lesson 5
- **Public domain excerpts:** short passages from E. Pauline Johnson, Zitkála-Šá and Duncan Campbell Scott, already in the course readers
- **Suggested ISU books:** thirteen titles by First Nations, Métis and Inuit authors, with content notes (teacher approval required; not included)

ISU books are under copyright, chosen and approved by the teacher, and not included; preview every title against your board's guidelines, since several include residential schools, sexual violence, addiction or suicide. The original texts are told by non-Indigenous narrators and never speak for an Indigenous person or community. Do not ask Indigenous students to speak for their communities. Review with your board's Indigenous education lead. Support: Hope for Wellness, 1-855-242-3310; Kids Help Phone, 1-800-668-6868; 988.

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

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