



Iroquois Wampum Belt

## Final: Wampum Project

Dr. Qwo-Li Driskill, [Qwo-Li.Driskill@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Qwo-Li.Driskill@oregonstate.edu)

Wampum rhetorics bridge text and the civic through the use of visual, performance, and material rhetorics. As we have been discussing and reading in class—through the work of Haas, Tehanetorens, Wallace, and Williams—wampum records are traditionally central to rhetorical production, memory, and diplomatic relationships for Native people in the Eastern United States and Canada. This project asks you to physically engage with and practice—not only read about—an Indigenous rhetorical tradition in order to develop your skills as rhetoric scholars.

### Learning Goals

- To bridge theory and practice about non-alphabetic texts.
- To critically engage and examine material rhetorics.
- To deepen rhetorical skills, particularly in invention, memory, and delivery.
- To understand the connections between traditional American Indian rhetorics and other rhetorics (including contemporary American Indian rhetorics, and non-Indigenous rhetorics).

### This project entails four phases:

- **Design/Invention:** Before you begin creating your wampum record, you will need to think of a specific story or event in your life—it can be anything you want—that you would like to record through a wampum record. Then, you will need to design the wampum record: you will write a brief proposal for your idea and also sketch out a wampum design, both of which will be due to me two weeks before you begin production. Because of time and material restraints, you will need to keep this project small. (An armband, hatband, or a choker will be sufficient.)
- **Production:** I will show you how to weave wampum during class. We will only have one class period together to work on this project, and you'll need to complete it outside of class.
- **Recitation:** You will present the wampum record to the class during your final, using your wampum record as a mnemonic device. Five minutes maximum.

 Reflection: During our final class, you will need to turn in a brief reflection (1.5-3 pages, double-spaced) of your experiences and learnings for this project, connecting them to the course readings and discussions. Your reflection should also address your thoughts on how your project met the evaluation criteria.

**You will be evaluated on the following criteria:**

 Visual Rhetorics (How images communicate meaning): Your wampum record should make use of visual rhetorics and semiotics. The visual rhetorics should clearly convey its intended meaning to your audience.

 Material Rhetorics (How made things communicate meaning): Your wampum record should be carefully constructed, and within conventions and traditions of the genre.

 Performance Rhetorics/Delivery: Your recitation is as important as your wampum record and your written documentation. Think of this the same way you would any formal public speaking event.

 Mnemonic Strength/"Memoria": Memory is central to wampum rhetorics. After you finish your wampum recitations, your classmates will be asked to tell the same story or event back to you using your wampum record as a guide. They, of course, don't need to repeat your story word for word, but they should be able to connect the visual rhetoric with the specifics you are recording.

If you have any further questions, please ask them in class, visit me during office hours, or email me.