

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS LEARNING**

**2431 - Native People and the Past
2008 Fall Session**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers students an overview of the Aboriginal experience in what is now Canada from the earliest time up to the time of Confederation. Starting with the origin of peoples and ending with the British North America Act's Section 91 which, according to European law, designated "Indians and Lands reserved for the Indians" as a federal government responsibility, the course will attempt to document the historical circumstances of the Aboriginal community. In particular, the course will focus on the contact experience between Aboriginal Peoples and the "Newcomers" in an effort to present contact as an ongoing, evolving process. Themes such spirituality, trade, community and community relations, governance and gender relations will all be considered as part of the discussion.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

There is one assigned textbook for the course; Olive Dickason, Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples from Earliest Times, Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2002 (hereafter Dickason). Students are expected to follow the weekly reading schedule as is included in the course outline.

DISCUSSION

Approximately forty-five minutes of the Thursday classroom period will be devoted to discussion. Discussion will be based on the reading assignments from the Dickason book. Students are not only expected to follow the reading schedule as is included in the course outline but they are also expected to participate willingly in classroom discussion.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY ARCHIVAL RESEARCH PROJECT

Working with the Hudson's Bay Company Archival Collection that is housed in the Northern Studies Resource Centre (Chancellor Paterson Library), students will select a Hudson's Bay Company post and in 1,000 words, attempt to chronicle the contact experience between the Aboriginal community and the European community. Research

Projects are due Thursday, October 16, 2008.

ESSAY

An essay of approximately 2,000 words is required. Students are encouraged to select a topic of their choosing but should do so in consultation with the instructor. The essay should be a formal presentation of research findings and should include a well thought out thesis or argument supported by both footnote and bibliographic references. Essays are due Thursday, November 13, 2008.

FINAL EXAMINATION

A final examination of approximately two hours duration is scheduled for the end of the term.

EVALUATION

Discussion	25%
Research Project	20%
Essay	25%
Final Examination	30%
	100%

OUTLINE

Week I - September 1 - September 5

Lecture - Introduction

Week II - September 8 - September 12

Lecture - Understanding the Past

Discussion - Hudson's Bay Archival Collection

Week III - September 15 - September 19

Lecture - Origins of People

Discussion - Dickason, Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 1 - 32

Week IV - September 22 - September 26

Lecture - World View

Discussion - Dickason, Chapters 3 and 4, pp. 33 - 66

Week V - September 29 - October 3

Lecture - Canada's First Peoples

Discussion - Dickason, Chapters 5, 6 and 7, pp. 67 - 100

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Week VI - October 6 - October 10

Lecture - The Aboriginal Community

Discussion - Dickason, Chapters 8, 9 and 10, pp. 101 - 139

Week VII - October 13 - October 17

Lecture - The Newcomers

Discussion - Dickason, Chapter 11, pp. 141 - 149

Week VIII - October 20 - October 24

Lecture - Contact

Discussion - Dickason, Chapters 12 and 13, pp. 153 - 178

Week IX - October 27 - October 31

Lecture - Conflict and Crisis

Discussion - Dickason, Chapter 14, pp. 179 - 192

Week X - November 3 - November 7

Lecture - The New Nation: Metis Peoples

Discussion - Dickason, Chapter 15, pp. 193 - 202

Week XI - November 10 - November 14

Lecture - Colonial Government

Discussion - Dickason, Chapter 16, pp. 203 - 224

Week XII - November 17 - November 21

Lecture - Treaties

Discussion - Dickason, Chapters 17 and 18, pp. 225 - 252

Week XIII - November 24 - November 28

Lecture - Confederation and the Dominion Government's "Indian Policy"

Discussion - Dickason, Chapter 19, pp. 253 - 270