

Lakehead University
Indigenous Learning
INDI-1314

Indigenous Peoples and the Issues

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30am-1:00pm

Class Location: RB-3049

Course Director: Travis Hay
Office Hours: TBA or by appointment
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Course Description :

This course offers a broad introduction to a wide variety of issues related to Indigeneity, settler colonialism, and contemporary Canadian politics. Beginning with theoretical foundations and grounded concepts of place-based pedagogy, the course surveys matters such as food sovereignty, water access, housing crises, healthcare, treaties, Indian Status, inquiries, inquests, as well as racism in policing services and the justice system. Students will develop a robust and detailed understanding of core concepts and key issues such as racism, social justice, genocide, ideology, and structural violence. Students will also be asked to think and read critically on matters concerning multiculturalism, reconciliation, and human rights.

This course has three main goals: to introduce students to key concepts and standard literature related to Indigenous issues; to encourage critical reading and writing skills with academic source materials; and to offer students a functional background and scholarly training in matters related to land, identity, and decolonization within a Canadian context.

Note: This course aims to be paperless as far as possible; accordingly, students are expected to submit assignments electronically and will need an e-mail or access to the course website to receive both feedback and course readings. If this is not feasible for you, please see the instructor to arrange a plan for paper-submission of course assignments and hard-copy access to course materials.

Required Texts:

This course has no required texts. All readings will be emailed to the class.

Grade Breakdown:

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|------------------------------------|-----|
| Participation: | 20% |
| Pop Quiz on Weekly Readings: | 10% |
| Book Review/Participatory Project: | 20% |
| Presentation: | 15% |
| Final Paper: | 35% |

Details of Assignments

Participation

Students are expected to attend lectures, to participate in tutorial discussions, to show up for documentary days, and to read course materials when assigned. Please see the lecture schedule for details. Your presence is mandatory and attendance will be taken each class. More than five unexplained absences within the semester will result in a participation grade of 0%. Please speak with the instructor if there are any planned absences.

The format of the class will be one lecture and one tutorial each week. To facilitate discussion, the class will be divided into two tutorial groups (T1 and T2), who will meet for 45 minutes on tutorial weeks to review course material, discuss readings, and support one another in developing and discussing research papers and other assignments.

NOTE: throughout the semester, there will be some 'documentary days', where both T1 and T2 will show up for a full Thursday class for the purposes of viewing a documentary film that supplements the topic of that week's lecture. Though the professor will remind students of these days in lecture, please pay close attention to the schedule to ensure no classes are missed and assigned readings are reviewed before tutorials.

Pop Quiz

This in-class quiz will be a very brief questionnaire on the topics, themes, and content covered in one of the weekly readings students are expected to read before tutorials.

Book Review/Participatory Project Assignment (due February 9th)

At some point during the Winter semester, students will be expected to participate in a community event related to Indigenous issues (for example: the Full Moon Memory Walk, the Bear Clan Patrol, or a local fundraiser). After participating within this event, students will complete a two-page write-up assignment detailing their involvement, commenting on their experiential learning, and outlining the relevance of this experience to course content.

Alternatively, students can select a book (to be pre-approved by the professor) and submit a two to three page review of its content, importance, and relevance to course content.

Final Research Paper (due April 6th)

In lieu of a final exam, students will produce a 6 page research paper on a subject drawn from one of the lecture topics (see the schedule below). Please see the attachment to this outline for more details.

Presentation of Final Research Paper (final two weeks of class)

Students will give a brief presentation (less than five minutes) on the topic of their final research paper.

CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE

Week 1

Tuesday, January 9th: Lecture

Introduction: Course Outline, Process, and Questions

Thursday, January 11th: Lecture

Conceptual Frameworks and Theoretical Foundations

Week 2

Tuesday January 16th: Lecture

Place-Based Pedagogy and the History of Thunder Bay

Thursday, January 18th: Tutorial (T1: 11:30am-12:10pm) (T2: 12:15pm – 12:55pm)

Read Before Class: Steven High, “Responding to White Encroachment: The Robinson-Superior Treaty and the Capitalist Labour Economy: 1880-1914” in *Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society Papers and Records*, Vol. XXII [1994]: pp.23-39.

Week 3

Tuesday January 23rd: Lecture

Treaties

Thurs., Jan 25: Documentary Day

Trick or Treaty by Alanis Obomsawin

Week 4

Tuesday January 30th: Lecture

The Indian Act, Pass System, and Outlawing Indigeneity

Thursday February 1st: Tutorial (T1: 11:30am-12:10pm) (T2: 12:15pm – 12:55pm)

Listen to Before Class: Red Man Laughing Podcast, Season 5, 'Indian Act' Episode; available at:
<https://www.redmanlaughing.com/listen/2016/4/red-man-laughing-indian-act-or-act-ndn>

Week 5

Tuesday, February 6th: Lecture

Indigenous Women Resist Structural and Gendered Violence

Thurs., Feb 8th: Documentary Day

Documentary Day: Lee Maracle On Violence Against Women and the Earth

*** BOOK REVIEW/PARTICIPATORY PROJECT DUE FEB. 9th ***

Week 6

Tuesday, February 15th: Lecture

Standoffs, Uprisings, and 'Crises'

Thurs., Feb 17th: Documentary Day

Documentary Day: Kahnesatake: 270 Years of Resistance

Week 7: READING WEEK – NO CLASS

Week 8

Tuesday, February 27TH: Lecture

Residential Schools

Thurs., March 1st: Documentary Day

Muffins for Granny

Week 9

Tuesday, March 6th: Lecture

Police Racism

Thurs., March 8th: Tutorial (T1: 11:30am-12:10pm) (T2: 12:15pm – 12:55pm)

Read Before Class: Sherene Razack, “The Space of Difference in Law: Inquests into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody” in *Somatechnics*, Vol. 1, No. 1 [March 2011]: pp. 87-123.

NOTE: LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW IS FRIDAY MARCH, 9th, 2018

Week 10

Tuesday, March 14th: Lecture

Scientific Racism: The Bering Strait Theory, the Firewater Myth, and Thrifty Genes

Thurs., March 15th: Tutorial (T1: 11:30am-12:10pm) (T2: 12:15pm – 12:55pm)

Read Before Class: Jennifer Poudrier, “The Geneticization of Aboriginal Diabetes: Adding Another Scene to the Story of the Thrifty Gene” in *The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, Vol. 44, No. 2 [2007]: pp. 237-261.

Week 11

Tuesday, March 20th: Lecture

Cost of Food and Boil Water Advisories

Thurs., March 22nd: Documentary Day

APTN Investigates: 'Food for Thought' Episode

Week 12

Tuesday, March 27th: Student Presentations

Thurs., March 29th: Student Presentations

Week 13

Tuesday, April 3rd: Student Presentations

Thurs., April 5th: Student Presentations

FINAL PAPERS DUE APRIL 6th, 2018
