POLI 4911 FA  
RECONCILIATION AND INDIGENOUS POLITICS IN CANADA  
Fall 2019

Friday: 2:30pm to 5:30pm  
Room: ATAC 2006

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Office Hours: Friday 10:30am to 2:00 pm

1. Course Description
In recent years, Canadian officials and citizens have expressed an increasing commitment to the goal of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. But what is “reconciliation” and what exactly is being reconciled? In this course, students will be introduced to the (1) historical political conditions that gave rise to this new era of reconciliation, (2) the main points of disagreement on what demands reconciliation makes of Canada and its citizens, and (3) the prospects for future success. Although elements of law and Indigenous thought will be discussed, this is not a course in Indigenous legal and political thought. Rather, the course materials will introduce students to the work of Indigenous activists and scholars, focusing on challenges this work poses to non-Indigenous Canadian institutions and society, especially where it engages political debates over land, nationhood, and sovereignty.

2. Course Materials
No Required Texts. Course readings will be available either through the library portal or they will be uploaded to D2L.

3. Course Requirements
   1. Participation and Attendance (30%): Participants who attend and participate have an opportunity to earn up to 30% for their time and effort.

   2. Presentation (25%): Participants will give a presentation 15 to 20-minute presentation for one of the weekly readings. Presenters should summarize the main points of the work(s) and provide their critical interpretation of the arguments and evidence offered in the work(s).
3. Final Paper (45%): 10 to 12-page essay (approx. 2,500-3,000 words): To be uploaded to D2L during final exam period: specific date to be announced.

4. E-mail
E-mail will be answered within two business days. Do not submit any class assignments by e-mail, unless instructed to do so. Please use e-mail only for quick queries and to set up appointments out of regularly scheduled office hours.

I welcome e-mail queries and comments. All students are required to have a valid Lakehead e-mail address. It is your responsibility to maintain your e-mail address in good working order. The University expects you to correspond with me through your official e-mail address, and not through a commercial e-mail account.

Failure to receive important class announcements and messages from me because of a faulty e-mail account (for example, an account which screens out my e-mails as junk mail; bounced messages because of overloaded caches) are not legitimate excuses.

Forwarding your Lakehead email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of e-mail account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from your Lakehead addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that e-mails from me may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

5. Accessibility
Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me, and/or Accessibility Services. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

6. Essays
You are to complete one essay. The goal of the essay is to provide a clear, concise response (argument) to the research question backed by rational consideration of the evidence.

Summarize your response (argument) in a sentence or two – the thesis statement – and appear in the first paragraph of your essay. Be explicit. The reader should be clear on what you are arguing. Assume an educated reader. Do not spend more than
a few paragraphs providing background information. Focus on providing information that advances your argument. While the balance of the paper will defend your argument, you should also acknowledge counterarguments and seek to demonstrate that your argument is superior.

7. Formatting bibliographies, references
The written assignments will all be double-spaced in 12pt Times New Roman font with standard margins. Essays should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and complete bibliography.

Include a title page with your name, the date, the course number, and my name. In completing the written assignments, students must cite all facts and figures that are not common knowledge and must cite all ideas that are borrowed from other authors. Students must use a recognized standard format correctly in their bibliographies, references, and footnotes. Failure to do so will result in substantial penalty in calculating your assignment grade.

The University takes instructional offences (including plagiarism) very seriously. Please make sure that you are familiar with the regulations regarding instructional offences. Also, it is not acceptable to submit the same assignment in two different courses.

8. Schedule

**Week 1: Introductions**
Friday, September 6

*Readings:*
No readings

**Week 2: First Things First**
Friday, September 13

*Readings:*
*On D2L


Recommended

Watch – Doctrine of Discovery/Native American Treaties: http://youtu.be/kVo4htA9MK8

Watch - The White Man's Burden
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cS__4F8QSNU

**Week 3: Jurisdiction**
Friday, September 20

Readings:

Recommended

Recommended
Watch – A Brief Introduction to Wampum:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSrWCkvOFa0

Watch - As Long as the Sun Shines – the spirit & intent of treaties:
http://youtu.be/3m47ZWjkAM0

**Week 4: Citizenship**
Friday, September 27

**Readings:**
*On D2L

*On D2L

**Recommended**


**Week 5: Politics of Recognition**
Friday, October 4

**Readings:**
Week 6: Politics of Reconciliation
Friday, October 11

Readings:


Recommended

Watch – The Oka Crisis CBC: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61ldZTjlfgE

Week 7: Reading Week – NO CLASS
Friday, October 18

Readings:
Week 8: Gender and Indigenous Feminisms
Friday, October 25

Readings:
*On D2L

*On D2L

Recommended


Week 9: Indigenous Children and Childhood
Friday, November 1

Readings:
*On D2L

*On D2L
*On D2L

**Recommended**
*On D2L

**Week 10: Land and Environment**  
Friday, November 8

**Readings:**
*On D2L

*On D2L

**Recommended**
*On D2L

Watch Ellen Gabriel, “System Change not Climate Change”  

**Week 11: Justice**  
Friday, November 15

**Readings:**
Week 12: UNDRIP
Friday, November 22

Readings:


Steven T. Newcomb, “The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Paradigm of Domination” (2011) 20 Griffith L. Rev. 578

Recommended
*On D2L

**Week 13: Pedagogy and Curricula**
Friday, November 29

**Readings:**
*On D2L

*On D2L

**Recommended**
Linda Alcoff, The Problem of Speaking for Others
http://alcoff.com/content/speaothers.html

Watch: Schooling the World https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDxYWspiN-8