



The University of Western Ontario
FNS/ANTHRO 2217G

FIRST NATIONS TRADITIONAL CULTURES OF CANADA
Winter 2017

Class Time: TUE 1:30 – 4:30

CLASSROOM: TH-3102

Instructor: Brent Stonefish

Office Hours: TBA

First Nations Studies, Office: SSC 9315 Email: bstonef@uwo.ca

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to Indigenous perspectives of their cultures by removing the colonial trap of seeing Indigenous cultures as “different” and “under glass”. The course will focus upon original teachings and examine the contributions of Indigenous cultures to the world community. During the course students will examine how cultural change impacts lifestyle, race relations, class systems and the role of gender within society. The historical impact will be touched on in relation to impact on the cultural growth and change. The format of the course includes lectures, films, speakers and interactive activities that encourage discussion.

3 hours, 0.5 course

Prerequisite(s) Any first year Arts or Social Science 1.0 or 0.5 Essay course

Antirequisite(s)

Learning Outcomes

The student will have the opportunity to dialogue within Indigenous thought.

The student will learn Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

The student will learn how to interact with Indigenous cultures

The student will have the opportunity to understand colonialism from an Indigenous perspective.

Required Text(s)

1. Archibald, Jo-ann. Indigenous Storywork: Educating the Heart, Mind, Body, and Spirit. UBC Press, 2008.
2. Knudtson, Peter & Suzuki, David. Wisdom of the Elders. Stoddart Publishing, 1992.
3. Cornelius, Carol. Iroquois Corn In a Culture-Based Curriculum A Framework for Respectfully Teaching about Cultures. State University of New York, 1999.
4. Ross, Rupert. Indigenous Healing Exploring Traditional Paths. 2014
5. Belanger, Yale, D. Ways of Knowing: An introduction to Native Studies in Canada. Nelson Education, 2014.
6. Stonefish, Brent. Moving Beyond: Understanding the Impacts of Residential Schools. Ningwakwe Learning Press, 2007.
7. Any additional readings will be provided

Method of Evaluation

Attendance and Participation	15 %
Assignment 1: 3 page paper on your observations of Indigenous Culture through media	15 %
Assignment 2: 3 page paper on an Indigenous culture & Canada 150	15 %
Assignment 3: Major research assignment	30 %
• Topic of your choice that is reflective of the readings.	
Final Exam	25 %
• 4 essay questions – 2 pages per question	

Evaluation Breakdown

Attendance & Participation

- Class participation is important. The course is a study of oral traditions and therefore encourages participants to be involved in discussions and presentations.

Assignment 1 – Due week 3

- First assignment due, your observations of an Indigenous culture; 3 pages. This assignment is an examination of your own personal experiences and observations of Indigenous peoples through the media or other forms of interaction.

Assignment 2 – Due week 8

- Write a brief review and what you feel is the essential purpose of the Indigenous culture and how that relates to Canada 150.

Assignment 3 – Due week 11

- 10 page research paper on a topic of your choice in relation to Indigenous cultures. It can be an expansion and/or combination of one of your smaller assignment but must be an original piece (you may borrow ideas from your earlier paper/s but have to produce new written material). May use course material as references but must have at least three additional sources not listed in the Syllabus.

Final Exam

- The final exam will be choice of 4 essay questions from a list of 8 due on the final day of class.

How To Contact Me

bstonef@uwo.ca

How to get important information

bstonef@uwo.ca

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

Students may be required to submit their assignments to turnitin.com on the class WebCT website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class: (“clickers”, if used)

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings:

NOTE: Dates and Topics subject to change with notice.

Week 1: January 10, 2017

Introduction – Everything begins and ends with creation

Class discussion on personal knowledge of Indigenous cultures

Assignment 1 description

Topic: Indigenous Philosophy

Week 2: January 17, 2017

Topic: looking through a cultural lens; What are the values of Indigenous cultures? Examine a holistic framework to examine Indigenous cultures.

Readings:

Indigenous Storywork Chapter 1

Week 3: January 24, 2017

Topic: What Indigenous cultures are not. This is an examination of how majority society has created an imaginary image that continues to create barriers to what is real.

Optional: Review film “More Than Bows and Arrows”

Readings:

Iroquois Corn- Introduction to Chapter 3

Indigenous Storywork – Chapter 2

Week 4: January 31, 2017

Topic: Haudenosaunee perspective on the holistic model: an examination of Haudenosaunee culture and how it has survived the invasion, genocide, colonialism

Readings:

Iroquois Corn Chapter 5,6,7,8

Week 5: February 7, 2017

Topic: What has been the experience of Anishnawbe - Ojibway culture through the interviews of Liza Mosher & Alex Skead

Video: Creation Story with Jim Dumont

Readings:

Indigenous Storywork Chapter 3,4

Interviews of Liza Mosher & Alex Skead

Indigenous Healing Exploring Traditional Paths

Week 6: February 14, 2017

Topic: The Results of Forced Cultural Change - Assimilation the act of the “Good Samaritan”

Readings:

Ways of Knowing Chapter 2

Wisdom of the Elders Chapters 3,7,9

Week 7: February 21, 2017

READING WEEK

Readings:

Wisdom of the Elders

Week 8: February 28, 2017

Topic: Countering Westernized “Indian” constructs - stereotypes

Review film: “Reel Injuns”

Readings:

Ways of Knowing Chapter 3

Indigenous Storywork - Storywork in Action Chapter 5

Week 9: February 28, 2017

Topic: What is the role of land in Indigenous cultures? Different values of what land represents. The story of the Doctrine of Discovery.

Readings:

Indigenous Storywork Chapter 6

Ways of Knowing Chapter 4 & 5

Week 10: March 7, 2017

Topic: What are the Indigenous cultures of the Plains?

Review film on Sun Dance

Readings:

Indigenous Storywork Chapter 7

Week 11: March 14, 2017

Topic: A view of West Coast cultures through Indigenous writers

Readings:

Wisdom of the Elders p. 31-33, 127-129, 148-150, 152-154

Week 12: March 21, 2017

Indigenous Awareness Week

TBD

Readings:

Iroquois Corn Chapter 9

Week 13: March 28, 2017

Topic: Decolonization of Indigenous cultures: is the next stage the transformation of the cultures?

Readings:

Moving Beyond: Understanding the Effects of Residential Schools

Wisdom of the Elders p178 -201

Week 14: April 4, 2017

Final Thoughts

Final Exam Distribution – Due in 2 weeks

Additional Resources:

Kulchyski, Peter, McCaskill, Don, and Newhouse, David, eds. In The Words of Elders: Aboriginal Cultures in Transition. University of Toronto Press, 1999