

Geography 2411G / First Nations Studies 2601G
INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTS
Course Outline
WINTER 2017

Instructor Information

Professor C. Richmond
Office location: SSC 2433
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Office Hours: Mondays 1:30pm-3:45pm

TA Information

Katie Mikraszewicz
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Lecture and Tutorials: times and places

Lecture: Mondays 11:30 am -1:30 pm, P&AB-34
Tutorials: Tuesday 9:30 am – 10:30 am, SSC-3026

Course Description: In this course, we will examine the special relationship between Indigenous peoples and their physical environments. We will explore the causes and consequences of environmental change as they are experienced by Indigenous communities from around the globe including those related to: identity, food, health, water quality, local economies, social functioning and urbanization. Overarching themes such as colonialism and environmental dispossession will guide the course, with emphasis on their consequences for community well-being.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to identify various causes and consequences of environmental change as they are experienced by Indigenous communities. Students will gain understanding of the interaction between physical and social processes and the role they play in creating current day Indigenous landscapes and environments. Critical thinking, independent research, teamwork, and oral and written communication skills will be enhanced.

Course Prerequisites: 1.0 course from [Geography 1100](#), [1300A/B](#), [1400F/G](#), [1500F/G](#) or the former Geography 020E, or [First Nations Studies 1020E](#), or permission from the Instructor. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites

Course Materials and Required Readings: All course materials and required readings will be placed on the course folder in OWL.

Course Evaluation:	
Graded Component	Date due
Assignment 1: reflexive essay 15%	January 23
Assignment 2: critical appraisal 20%	February 13
In Class, open-book exam 30%	March 20
Assignment 3: Group essay and presentation 30%	April 3 rd and 4th
Assignment 3: Group evaluations 5%	April 4th

LECTURE, READINGS & TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
Part I: Indigenous Peoples and the Environment		
Week 1 Jan 9	Defining Indigenous Peoples Film: 8 th Fire: Whose Land is it Anyway? (45 min) Readings: Richmond (2017)	Jan 10 Intro to TA & TED Talk “Endangered Cultures” by Wade Davis
Week 2 Jan 16	Indigenous Knowledge & Relationship to Land Film: <i>Mino-Bimadiziwin, The Good Life [Minnesota]</i> Readings: LaDuke (1994); McGregor (2004); Richmond (2015)	Jan 17 Assignment 1 introduced: What does it mean to be reflexive?
Week 3 Jan 23	Framing Environmental Dispossession: Colonization, Contamination & Climate Change Readings: Richmond & Ross (2009); LaDuke (1999); Salick & Byg (2007)	Jan 24 * Assignment 1 due
Part II: Outcomes of environmental dispossession in Indigenous communities		
Week 4 Jan 30	Cultural identity and the Residential Schools Film: <i>Where the Spirit Lives</i> Readings: Crey (1997); Native NWAC’s Fact Sheet on Residential Schools (2015)	Jan 31
Week 5 Feb 6	Water Security Readings: Why is Canada denying its Indigenous peoples clean water?; Water Systems at Risk; Castleden et al., (2016) Explore the Mother Earth Water Walk: http://vimeo.com/22464388 http://www.motherearthwaterwalk.com/index.php/news/168	Feb 7
Week 6 Feb 13	Health & the Social Determinants of health Film: <i>Seeking Biimadisiwin</i> Readings: NCCAH Fact sheet; Postl et al., (2010); Caron (2015) Visit from Dr. Samantha Boshart	Feb 14 Assignment 2 introduced

Feb 20	READING WEEK: No Class	Feb 21 No Tutorial
Week 7 Feb 27	Food Security, Traditional Foods & Food Sovereignty Readings: Grey and Patel (2015); Canadian Council of Academies (2014); LaDuke (2005) Film: Ted Talk: Winona LaDuke – Seeds of our Ancestors, Seeds of Life (18 min)	Feb 28 Assignment 3 introduced & groups formed
Week 8 Mar 6	Environmental Repossession and Community Self-determination in Research Readings: Big-Canoe & Richmond (2014); Richmond (2016); LaVeaux & Christopher (2009). Film: Gifts from the Elders	Mar 7 * Assignment 2 due Exam Review
Part III: Resilience to Environmental Dispossession by Indigenous communities		
Week 9 Mar 13	* In class exam	Mar 14 No Tutorial
Week 10 Mar 20	Revitalization of Traditional Healing Readings: LaDuke (2005). Guest Speaker: Liz Akiwenzie	Mar 21 Exam Take-up/ Group Meetings
Week 11 Mar 27	Indigenous resistance, reclamation, and recovery: Using the land to make an economy Readings: LaDuke (2005). Coria & Calfucura (2012)	Mar 28 Final Presentations
Week 12 April 3	Final Presentations *Assignment 3 Due	Apr 4 No tutorial

Accommodation for Medical Illness:

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

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

[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

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

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the

Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Special Accommodation and Makeup exams:

Students with special accommodation will write make-up tests and examinations administered by the department on Fridays during respective periods of fall and winter terms. To prevent prior disclosure, the format and contents of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

Statement on Academic 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.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>.

Western's commitment to accessibility

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western. 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.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Policy on Accommodation for Medical illness: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.