

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
**FIRST NATIONS STUDIES 2500G/2254G**  
**INDIGENOUS ARTS OF NORTH AMERICA**  
COURSE OUTLINE

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**Instructor:** David Kanatawakhon  
**Office:** Room 3214, Social Science Building  
**Office Hours:** By appointment, Wednesday or Thursday  
**Telephone:** 519.661.2111 ext. 85042  
**Email:** david.kanatawakhon@uwo.ca  
**Time:** Thursday, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
**Classroom:** Social Science Building 3108

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will deal with the "arts" of the Indigenous peoples of North America. The term "arts" will cover a broad spectrum of artistic expression as evidenced by the historical record of the past four centuries up to more contemporary times. The more traditional arts, such as clothing and body decoration, and the decoration of utility objects of daily and ceremonial use will be discussed as well as the more contemporary artistic expressions acquired through interaction with Western culture.

**EVALUATION:**

**Paper:**.....30%

Each student will be expected to write a 3,000 word essay focusing on some aspect of traditional or contemporary art forms, either within the context of a particular indigenous group, or within the "pan" experience of contemporary times. The paper should provide a cultural critique of the art form and its relevance to the particular group or to the overall indigenous experience. The paper will be due the last class of the term.

**Project:**.....30%

Each student will be expected to produce a "piece of art" reflective of an indigenous art form or tradition. The "art" project may be related to the focus of the required paper, or made be something completely different. The project will be due the last class.

**Presentations:**.....30%

Each student will be expected to do three 15 minute in-class presentations, valued at 10% each, focusing on some aspect of an indigenous art expression. The student will choose three topics from the following traditions: one each from design, decoration, dance, singing, painting, carving, clothing, or any other indigenous art forms which may be a reflection of Western cultural influence. The student may use a variety of media available to accomplish their presentations. A schedule will be set up of each of the in class presentations.

**Participation:** .....10%