



The University of Western Ontario
INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS: POLITICS, RESISTANCE AND CULTURAL RESURGENCE
INDIGSTU 2807F / GSWS 2290F

Fall 2024

Wednesdays, 1:30-4:30 pm, UC 59

Delivery Method - In-person

Instructor: Dr. Lina Sunseri

Office Hours: by appointment

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This is a DRAFT only. Please see the course site for the final version.

Course Description:

Students explore Indigenous feminist frameworks and epistemologies to understand the participation of Indigenous women in social, political, and environmental movements. This course examines issues relating to the historical and contemporary experiences of Indigenous women feminists nationally and internationally. This course also considers Indigenous feminist analyses and Indigenous women's issues.

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite(s): [Indigenous Studies 1020E](#) or [GSWS 1020E](#), or 1.0 course from [GSWS 1021F/G](#), [GSWS 1022F/G](#), [GSWS1023 F/G](#), [GSWS 1024F/G](#) or [GSWS 1030F/G](#), or special permission from the Program.

Unless you have either the prerequisites or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in the course, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The 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.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: We/I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Lenahpay-wuk) and Chonnonton (Chun-ongk-ton) Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. With this, we/I respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service.
<https://indigenous.uwo.ca/initiatives/land-acknowledgement.html>

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of important course themes, theories, peoples, and processes in the history of Indigenous feminisms.
- Develop familiarity with key scholarship and theoretical considerations of Indigenous feminisms, politics, resistance, cultural resurgence, and historical experiences.
- Critically analyze Indigenous feminism theories, scholarship, and experiences as they evolved historically and have continued relevancy today.
- Demonstrate competency in written, oral and analytical skills through course readings, discussions, presentation, and written assignments/examination.

Course Material:

The following texts are required and can be purchased at the Western's Bookstore.

1. Nickel, Sarah & Amanda Fehr (eds.). *In Good Relation: History, Gender, and Kinship in Indigenous Feminisms*. University of Manitoba Press. 2020.
2. Starblanket, Gina (ed.) *Making Space for Indigenous Feminism*. 3rd edition. Fernwood Publishing 2024.
3. Sunseri, Lina. *Being Again of One Mind: Oneida Women and the Struggle for Decolonization*. University of British Columbia Press. 2011.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d21/login>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

Students are responsible for attending classes, read weekly assigned material ahead of class, and to actively participate in class discussions, activities. If you missed a class, it your responsibility to contact the instructor and/or a classmate to enquire what you missed (for example, any videos shown in class).

Email should be professionally prepared, spell and grammar-checked and must be written from your UWO account.

Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

1. Reflecting Journals on Readings. 60% of Final Mark. (Each Journal worth 30%). First Reflecting Journal Due October 23rd 2024. Second Reflecting Journal Due November 20th 2024. Both to be submitted online on Owl as a word document.

Each journal is to be typed, double-spaced, approximately **5 pages each**. The task of the journals is to show comprehension of the readings, an active and deep engagement with the themes,

issues presented by the authors of the readings and to provide a personal reflection of such issues and themes. The journals must have a **brief** summary of the readings, **and an emphasis** on own thoughts and reflections to the readings: your reflection must show **interaction** with the readings, which means recognizing what questions, challenges were raised by the authors of the readings. Some possible questions to guide your reflections: What were the main points, arguments presented, and what do **you** feel about what you read? What struck you the most by the readings? What did you learn? How do the readings exemplify Indigenous feminism? Have you experienced or witnessed similar issues, feelings, etc. to what you read? Do you agree with the arguments of the authors? Do you have a different view, or suggestions about how to address the issues?

First Reflective Journal covers readings from beginning of term to October 11, 2024.

Second Reflective Journal covers readings from October 23, 2024 to November 13, 2024.

Please note that this is an essay-designated course. As per Western academic regulations as set out in the Academic Calendar, for a student to pass a designated course (an E, F, or G course), they must demonstrate competence in essay writing. That is, to pass this course, you **must** pass these two essay components of the course.

For each assignment, students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed above. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted. Students with an Accessible Education Plan who require additional supports are encouraged to speak with their instructor.

2. Group Project Presentation: Worth 10% of Final Mark. Dates to be scheduled at beginning of term, by draw.

Details and Guidelines of Group Project will be discussed/provided at beginning of term in class and posted on OWL.

*Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation: **GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION**. In the case that academic accommodation is granted for missing to present on scheduled date of the group presentation, an alternate written assignment will be arranged for the student. Please view policy on academic consideration discussed below.*

3. Final Examination. Worth 30% of Final Mark. TBA. Two-hour exam. It will be held in-person during final examination period. It will cover all course material. It will constitute of two essay questions.

Student Absences:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.”

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#). Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Weekly course schedule and readings will be posted in the final version of the course outline on OWL

Artificial Intelligence:

All assignments must be completed independently, without the aid of artificial intelligence (AI).

Please familiarize yourself with Western's academic policies by reviewing them in the Western University Academic Calendar.

2024-2025