

INDIGSTU 1020E:
INTRODUCTION TO INDIGENOUS STUDIES
Fall/Winter 2024-2025
Indigenous Studies Program

1. COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description:

An interdisciplinary survey of Indigenous issues, from academic and community perspectives including indigenous knowledge, historical background, oral history, socio-political context, arts, language and culture. Specific practical examples will be explored by researchers and community members engaged in their contemporary documentation and resolution.

Extra Information:

2 lecture hours, 1 tutorial hour.
36 hours total

Course Weight: 1.00 credits

Breadth: CATEGORY A

Subject Code: INDIGSTU

2. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Renee E. Mazinegiizhigookwe Bedard

Email: rbedard4@uwo.ca. Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructor or any of the teaching assistants. Do not use personal email addresses. Please type [IS1020E] at the beginning of each subject line so I know the email comes from a student in this class.

Office Hours: 1 hour – before class

Appointments: Students may make an appointment with the instructor outside of office hours for course related reasons. These meetings can be held in person at the instructor's office or via zoom.

Teaching Assistants:

1. Andie Albert (aalber3@uwo.ca)
2. Andrew Siwabessy (asiwabes@uwo.ca)

**Please check with your tutorial leaders if they have office hours in person or via zoom.*

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 (Len-ahpay-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>

Statement on Gender-based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Articulate interdisciplinary perspectives to understanding and interpreting the lives of contemporary Indigenous peoples in Canada, including history, art, literature, film, education, law, environmental, and political studies.
2. Understand the rights, laws, and rights as Indigenous People in Canada.
3. Discuss the ways Indigenous knowledge has survived and is used in modern contexts.
4. Provide forward looking, post-reconciliation and indigenized perspectives.
5. Focus on inclusivity across Indigenous nations, genders, and culturally diverse backgrounds.
6. Understand the foundational history of Canada as a settler-colonial state and how this has led to contemporary events that Indigenous People experience.
7. Engage critically upon the future realities facing Indigenous peoples in Canada to provide students with a foundation of understanding the unique place of Indigenous People in Canada in the present.

3. COURSE FORMAT & DELIVERY MODE

The course is broken down into lectures, tutorials and assignments. Read the following descriptions to understand the format for those three components.

Lecture Format

Class lectures will be two hours in length. Lectures will include a variety of teaching methods: traditional lecturing, group activities, out of class hands on learning, storytelling,

creative, expression, and discussion. PowerPoint slides will be uploaded to OWL/BRIGHTSPACE before each lecture. The instructor does not share informal lecture notes. Students are expected to listen and take their own notes during each class. Attendance at lectures is mandatory. *Note: OWL is transitioning over to BRIGHTSPACE. Currently, the instructor is still becoming familiar with the new platform. Please be patient the system is new.

Course Delivery

The course is in-person delivery mode; however, should there be bad weather or the COVID-19 landscape shifts, the course can be delivered on-line synchronously (i.e., on Zoom at the times indicated in the timetable). The grading scheme will not change.

Lecture Format

Length 110 minutes (1 hr and 50 minutes)

Time:	Content of Tutorial:
5 minutes	General Housekeeping: attendance; preliminary questions; instructor sets up for lecture
1 hr	Lecture Period: the instructor will lecture for 1 hour
10 minutes	Break: Students will be provided with 10 minutes for a short break
25 minutes	Lecture Period: the instructor will lecture for 25 more minutes
10 minutes	(5 minutes) Question of the Day: students will go in groups. Designate your speaker to share findings with class (5 minutes) Share findings! One person from the group will share what their group discussed.
	Student Questions/Packing up: group work time for future groups that will be presenting.

**If you are late or return a bit late from break, just come into class quietly and take your seat.*

TUTORIALS:

In addition, to lectures students will be expected to attend weekly tutorials. Students will only attend their assigned tutorials. Do not ask the instructor to switch the tutorials unless there is a course conflict. Tutorials are assigned by the registrar's office. Attendance at tutorials is mandatory.

Tutorial Format

Length 50 minutes

Time:	Content of Tutorial:
5 minutes	General Housekeeping: attendance; preliminary questions; students set up for presentations
15-20 minutes	Presentation Period: Assigned groups for each week will give their presentation
10-15 minutes	Presentation discussion Period: 10 minutes will be allotted for in class mini-group discussion; 5 minutes for review as a whole class. See the assignment for more details.

5 minutes	Review Period: end of class review of the lecture material; additional questions
10 minutes	Work Period: group work time for future groups that will be presenting.

OWL/BRIGHTSPACE

This academic year the course can be found on Western University Brightspace. You will find all course content on the new platform. Please be mindful that this is a transition year and it is new to both you and the instructor. To ensure that marking goes more smoothly in this transition year. All assignments will be submitted as hard copies on paper.

Western university Brightspace link:

<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>

4. COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook:

Starblanket, Gina, David Long, and Olive Patricia Dickason. *Visions of the Heart: Issues Involving Indigenous People, 5th Edition*. Don Mills Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Additional readings:

*There will be other readings to “review” throughout the course. Look at the weekly readings to see other additional readings to examine weekly.

Where to purchase:

Copies of the textbook can be purchased at the Campus Bookstore.

(<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbooks-and-course-materials>)

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site

(<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at **519-661-3800** or **ext. 83800**.

Technical Requirements

Technical requirements for the course include stable high-speed internet connection, computer with working microphone and camera, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint or Google Slides). Students need to make themselves familiar with OWL/Brightspace.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices such as computer and auditory recording devices can be used in the class to document the lecture. However, you are not permitted to post online the lectures or recordings of the lecture. The instructor retains all intellectual property of the course content.

No electronic devices (including computers, cell phones, and smart watches) will be permitted at the final examination room.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration; however, students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

(See link for future guidance on Western's AI Policy:

<https://ai.uwo.ca/Guidance/Policy.html>)

5. METHODS OF EVALUATION

Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates

The methods by which student performance will be evaluated and the weight of each, including an exact timetable and schedule of assignments, is listed below.

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/exam/scheduling.pdf>

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

Term 1 - Schedule:

	ASSIGNMENTS	VALUE %	DUE DATE
1.	Term 1 – Participation	Lecture 5% Tutorial 5%	Weekly
2.	Term 1 - Group Tutorial Presentation	10%	Sign-up in tutorial
3.	Land Acknowledgment Report	20%	November 4, 2024
	Total	40%	

Term 2 - Schedule:

	ASSIGNMENTS	VALUE %	DUE DATE
1.	Participation	Lecture 5% Tutorial 5%	Weekly
2.	Term 2 - Group Tutorial Presentation	10%	Sign-up in tutorial
3.	5w's Treaty Research Assignment - Part 1	Topic Proposal 5%	Feb. 3, 2025
4.	5w's Treaty Research Assignment – Part 2	Research Paper 15%	Mar. 17, 2025
5.	Final Examination	20%	TBA (April 2025)

	Total	60%	
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	Final Grade	100%	
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Formal Documentation Designation statement

Please note that the following assessment is central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration any of the following assessments will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for these assessments will be provided with the following opportunity to make up all the following assignments. Those assignments that will be considered for a make up assignment include

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). Make sure you have this preparation well in advance.

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf>

This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult: [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar’s webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to **make (1) one Academic Consideration request without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

- **Final Examination** – need supporting documentation and student must go through the **student absence portal**

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html

Academic Consideration for Missed Assessments

	ASSIGNMENTS		ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT
1.	Term 1 – Participation	Make-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 missed day requires a (1) one-page summary and reflection of the reading; (1) one discussion question • Format: double spaced; times new roman font; pt. 12 font size; bibliographic citation of the reading.
2.	Term 1 - Group Tutorial Presentation	Make-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can arrange to present on another day • If there are problems with tutorial group dynamics, such as conflict that leads to a collapse of the group or an inability to continue without further conflict, then the tutorial leader can take the following to two options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) zoom presentation – individual or mini-group (e.g. 1-2 students) student presentations for group members (2) in-class - individual or mini-group (e.g. 1-2 students) student presentations; however, this will only work if there are extra days to present on.
3.	Land Acknowledgment Report	Makeup/re-write	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange privately with the instructor to get the assignment handed in at new due date. • If the student fails, the assignment they can arrange a re-write with a deadline discussed with the instructor. There is only one chance to re-write.
4.	5w's Treaty Research Assignment	Makeup/re-write	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange privately with the instructor to get the assignment handed in at new due date. • If the student fails the assignment they can arrange a re-write with a deadline discussed with the instructor. There is only one chance to re-write.
5.	Final Examination	Academic accommodations only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will need to arrange academic accommodations for any missed examination

Note: when a student misses the **Final Exam** and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar ([Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

Late Assignment Guidelines and the No-Late-Penalty Period:

Students are expected to submit each of the assignments by the deadline listed in the course syllabus. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students do not need to request Academic Consideration; however, they must follow the following procedures to ensure that they

1. (72 hrs) 3 Day Grace Period:

- **Grace Period:** Students will not receive penalty on any late assignments (exempting the Final Examination) for 72hrs if they follow the following procedures. You must follow the procedures below, or you will not be given the grace period.
 - 1) Students will have to submit via the **submissions box** any late assignments. A **submissions “box”** will be provided outside the office of the instructor. Students will be given that information on the first day of the class. It is not included in the course syllabus for safety reasons. Make sure you know where the office is located. The office will be announced the first day of class; however, if you are not there, you are responsible for finding out this information.
 - 2) **Students will have till 3:00pm each day** to submit a hard copy of their assignments outside the instructor’s office. Emailed submissions will not be accepted by the instructor or tutorial leaders. Additionally, you must have the **date submitted** after the due date on the title page to get proper credit that you made the deadlines.
 - 3) If a student can’t meet the 72 hour deadline due to a medical condition, they must seek a medical accommodation. The primary link for academic rights and responsibilities, including a variety of accommodations is linked here:
https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12
 - 4) Academic Consideration requests may be granted only for extenuating circumstances that started before the deadline and lasted longer than the No-Late-Penalty Period (72 hours).
 - 5) Alternatively, the instructor may deny all requests, give them a zero mark, and let students follow the appeal pathway to ask for an exception. Note that instructors may not ask for medical documentation for privacy protection, but the student can voluntarily share information.

2. Late Penalties:

- Applied after the grace period; 72 hours after submission.
- 0.5% per day. This lasts for the 1st and 2nd day the assignment is late
- 1% per day 3-7
- Failure on the assignment will be applied day 8 at 12:00 am

1. ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC POLICIES & SERVICES

Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) . Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but **not later than two weeks** prior to writing

the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Students that must miss classes due to religions holidays can make-up the time with an alternative assignment (See above).

Academic Accommodation and Accessible Education

Academic Accommodation is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfil the essential requirements of a course or program.”

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationandabilities.pdf>.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible Education** at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students”

<http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessibleeducation/index.html>

This is an in-person course, based on Indigenous learning methods, and it requires students to be present. If a student requires remote learning, they must provide their own equipment to do so, along and that means someone to set it up and take it down. The instructor and tutorial leaders will not be responsible for this.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

Support Services

Academic Advising

Your Home Faculty’s Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the **Learning Development and Success Centre** <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Indigenous Student Centre – Indigenous Academic Support Services

The Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) offers many support programs for [Self-Identifying Indigenous Students](#) to thrive personally and academically while at Western and beyond. If you have academic concerns, you can meet with their Indigenous [Academic Advisor](#) or an [ISC Tutor](#). Here is the link to the Indigenous Student Centre:

<https://indigenous.uwo.ca/students/supports/index.html>

IMPORTANT CAMPUS LINKS:

Important Websites:	Links/Contact Info.:
Faculty of Social Science	https://www.ssc.uwo.ca/
Dean's Office	General Issues: social-science@uwo.ca Dean: socsci-dean@uwo.ca ; Tel: 519-661-2053 Academic Counselling: 519-661-2011
Land Acknowledgment (Indigenous Initiatives)	https://indigenous.uwo.ca/initiatives/land-acknowledgement.html
Tutors & Academic Support	https://indigenous.uwo.ca/students/supports/tutor-support.html
Western University Library	https://www.lib.uwo.ca/index.html
UWO – Citation Guides	https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html
Indigenous Initiatives	https://indigenous.uwo.ca/
Wampum Learning Lodge	https://wampumlearninglodge.uwo.ca/index.html

UWO – Indigenous Students Association	https://indigenous.uwo.ca/students/student-life/student-groups/indigenous-student-association.html
Human Rights Office	https://www.uwo.ca/hro/index.html
Pride Library	www.uwo.ca/pridelib/
Western Queer Caucus	queer-caucus@uwo.ca
Mental Health Support	https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html
Examination Policies	https://www.uwo.ca/arts/counselling/procedures/examinations.html