



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**Indigenous Studies 1020E**  
**Introduction to Indigenous Studies**  
**Lecture (via Zoom): Monday: 1:30 – 3:30**

Instructor: Dr. Diana Lewis, Assistant Professor,  
Department of Geography and Environment/Indigenous Studies  
Office Hours (via Zoom): Monday 10:30 – 12:30 or by appointment.  
Email: [Diana.Lewis@uwo.ca](mailto:Diana.Lewis@uwo.ca)

Note: If you contact me on weekends, I may not respond until Monday morning.

Teaching Assistant: Serena Mendizabal, Master's Student  
Department of Geography and Environment  
Office Hours: (via Zoom) Monday 10:30 – 12:30 or by appointment.  
Contact Info: [smendiz@uwo.ca](mailto:smendiz@uwo.ca)

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Course Description: An interdisciplinary survey of Indigenous historical and contemporary issues in Canada, from academic and community perspectives, including key terminology, overview of Indigenous knowledges and worldviews, languages and cultures, and international experiences of Indigenous peoples. Students will be introduced to Elders, Indigenous researchers, and community experts.

I welcome students to the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e.g. First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

**Pre-requisite(s): None**

**Anti-requisite(s): None**

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Articulate how Indigenous knowledges inform decision-making.
- Understand the foundational history of Canada and other colonial countries.
- Engage critically in discussions about the unique place of Indigenous peoples in Canada's history.
- Understand the genesis of contemporary challenges that Indigenous peoples are facing.

Required Text - Access to digital books will be provided before classes start.

- *Fighting for a hand to hold*. Montreal, PQ: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- *Forever Loved: Exposing the Hidden Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada*. Bradford, ON: Demeter Press. (Available online)
- *No surrender : the land remains Indigenous* / Sheldon Krasowski ; foreword by Winona Wheeler. University of Regina Press.
- *"The Caribou Taste Different Now": Inuit Elders Observe Climate Change*. Nunavut Arctic College Media.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Item	Description	Value
Zoom breakout sessions (23)	Starting September 21 <sup>st</sup> , each week will consist of a one hour lecture and/or guest speaker followed by breakout sessions. Students will be divided into teams and assigned to a group which will be rotated for each Theme (15). Students will be assigned a reading to be discussed during the breakout sessions. At the end of each Theme, each group is expected as a team to submit a 6-8 slide summary of their discussions (rubric will be shared for what is expected).	3% each <b>Total - 45%</b>
Essay 1 (Due October 30th) 10%  Essay 2 (Due March 12th) 15%	Potential topics to be assigned (1500 words each). Rubric will be shared with assignment.	<b>Total - 25%</b>
Essay 3 (due April 16th)	Potential topics to be chosen by students from topics we covered (1500 words). Rubric will be shared with assignment.	<b>Total 30%</b>

**Course Schedule – Readings (TBD):**

WK1	September 14th	Introductions, using Zoom, privacy, review syllabus.  Chapter – Settler colonialism and the consolidation of Canada in the twentieth century. Adam J. Barker, Toby Rollo and Emma Battell Lowman
<b>September 17<sup>th</sup> - Last day to register.</b>		
<b>Theme 1: Concepts</b>		
WK2	September 21st	Lecture and breakout. Concepts – Indigenous knowledges, Indigenous worldviews, wholism, interconnectedness, collective societies and rights.
<b>Theme 2: Pre-contact and early contact</b>		
WK3	September 28th	Lecture and breakout.
WK4	October 5th	Lecture and breakout.
WK5	October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving - No class
<b>Theme 3: Treaty-making across Canada</b>		

WK6	October 19th	Lecture and breakout.	
WK7	October 26th	Lecture and breakout.	
WK8	November 2nd	Reading Week	No classes.
<b>Essay # 1 Due October 30th: Topics from Themes 1 to 3 (10%)</b>			
<b>Theme 4: Colonial Administration of ‘Indians’</b>			
WK9	November 9th	Lecture and breakout.	
<b>November 12<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop a full course without academic penalty.</b>			
<b>Theme 5: Residential Schools</b>			
WK10	November 16th	Film: 2 hours	
WK11	November 23rd	Lecture and breakout.	
WK12	November 30th	Lecture and breakout.	
<b>Theme 6: 1969 Indian White Paper – The tide starts to change</b>			
WK13	December 7th	Lecture and breakout.	
<b>December 9<sup>th</sup> – Fall term ends.</b>			
<b>Winter Term Begins</b>			
<b>Theme 7: 1960s Scoop and Millennium Scoop</b>			
Week 14	January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Guest Speaker lecture and breakout.	
<b>Theme 8: Relocation and Centralization</b>			
Week 15	January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture and breakout.	
<b>January 12<sup>th</sup> – Last day to add a class.</b>			
<b>Theme 9: Theme 9: Success at the Supreme Court of Canada/Reclaiming rights for Indigenous Peoples</b>			
Week 16	January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture and breakout.	
<b>Theme 10: Land claims and modern day treaty negotiations</b>			
Week 17	February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lecture and breakout.	
Week 18	February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture and breakout.	
<b>Theme 11: Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples</b>			
Week 19	February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Reading Week	No Classes.
Week 20	February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lecture and breakout.	
Week 21	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Guest speaker lecture and breakout.	

<b>Theme 12: Racism – Children, women &amp; health</b>		
Week 22	March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture and breakout.
<b>Essay Due March 12th: Topics from Themes 4 to 10 (15%)</b>		
Week 23	March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture and breakout.
Week 24	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lecture and breakout.
<b>Theme 13: Impacts of climate change</b>		
Week 25	March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Guest speaker lecture and breakout.
<b>Theme 14: Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Calls to Action – Where are we?</b>		
Week 26	April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Lecture and breakout.
<b>Theme 15: Personal Reflection</b>		
Week 27	April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Class reflections.
<b>Winter term ends.</b>		
<b>Essay topics to be chosen by student - Due April 16<sup>th</sup> (30%)</b>		

### Important Policies

#### Grade Scale

A+	90-100%
A	80-89%
B	70-79%
C	60-69%
D	50-59%
F	Below 50% or assigned when course is dropped with academic penalty

#### *Policies for Assignment Deadlines*

Extension of deadlines or alternate dates for tests will be granted only for documented illness or compassionate reasons. Workloads (i.e., other class work, projects, readings, employment) do not count as a reasonable excuse. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 4% per day, to a maximum of 20%. Further information on “Academic Consideration for Missed Work” is below.

Assignment objectives and rubrics will be posted on OWL, as well as discussed in class via Zoom. Should you have a concern regarding the grade you received for an assignment, you **must wait 24 hours** from the receipt of the grade (on OWL) to contact the instructor. In doing so, *please make an appointment and prepare in writing, with evidence, why you feel your grade is inappropriate.* Please be aware that in requesting a grade reassessment, your grade could go up/down/or stay the same. Note that calculations errors (which do occur!) should be brought to my attention immediately.

### *Academic Consideration for Missed Work*

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements must submit a request for academic consideration through the appropriate route:

- (i) For **absences 48 hours or less**, students can complete a [Self-Reported Absence \(SRA\)](#) form provided the conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. The form [can be completed online](#). The SRA can be used only twice. Please note the important exceptions to this rule:
  - i. Not permitted for final exams or assessments worth more than 30% of a course.
- (ii) Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of a course, the student has already used 2 SRAs, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.
- (iii) All of the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling procedures can be found here: <https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/index.html>

Students seeking academic consideration:

- Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work.
- Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence.
- **All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence.**

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:

- **Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability** are responsible for determining, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the [Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability](#). Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.

- **Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance** (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through [Student Health and Wellness](#) and [Learning Development & Success](#) in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

### ***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 as outlined in the [Scholastic Discipline](#) policy.

### ***Scholastic Offences***

Scholastic offences (including plagiarism) 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: [www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### ***Plagiarism Checking***

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for 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 ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

### ***Policies on Examinations***

No electronic devices of any kind are allowed during tests and examinations.

### ***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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: [www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***Mental Health***

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources at Western to assist you. Please visit the [Mental Wellbeing website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

### ***Indigenous Services:***

A link to Indigenous Services can be found at <http://indigenous.uwo.ca>

**Writing Support Centre:**

A link to the Writing Support Centre can be found at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>

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