

GEOG 2411F/G IND STUD 2601F/G – Indigenous Environments

Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2021



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements

- Stable internet connection
- Laptop of computer
- Working microphone
- Working webcam
- Zoom application installed

Recommended technical specifications:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/timetables.html>

Western Zoom webpage, including privacy

information: <https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>.

2. Course Information

Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
Online Lectures	Mondays	11:30-1:20
Online Tutorials	Thursdays	10:30-12:30

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 11	February 13-21	April 12	April 13	April 14-30

* March 15, 2021: Last day to add a second-term half course

Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Professor Chantelle Richmond	chantelle.richmond@uwo.ca	Monday's 2:00-3:00pm, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Veronica Reitmeier	vreitmei@uwo.ca	Wednesday's 1:00-2:00pm, or by appointment

** Group office hours will be held by Professor Richmond on Zoom, Monday's 2:00-3:00pm. These office hours will be recorded and posted for everyone to view

3. Calendar Description

The consequences of physical environmental change for Indigenous communities around the globe will be examined in relation to the processes of colonialism and environmental dispossession. Topics include: identity, culture, local economies, social functioning, food security and health

2 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): [Indigenous Studies 2601F/G](#).

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 course from [Environmental Science 1021F/G](#), [Indigenous Studies 1020E](#), [Geography 1100](#), [Geography 1200A/B](#), [Geography 1300A/B](#), [Geography 1400F/G](#), [Geography 1500F/G](#), [Geography 2131A/B](#), [Geography 2132A/B](#), [Geography 2133A/B](#), [Geography 2142A/B](#), [Geography 2152F/G](#), [Geography 2153A/B](#); [Women's Studies 1020E](#), [Health Sciences 1001A/B](#) and [Health Sciences 1002A/B](#); [Sociology 1020](#), [Sociology 1021E](#), [Sociology 1025A/B](#), [Sociology 1026F/G](#), [Sociology 1027A/B](#) or enrolment in the Major in Ecosystem Health or in any of the Globalization Studies modules, or permission from the Instructor.

Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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.”

4. Textbook

There is no textbook for this course. All material and resources will be posted in the “Resources” tab in OWL

5. Course Objectives and Format

This is an online, lecture-based course that will emphasise theoretical and applied concepts through lecture, films and tutorial discussion. To learn about and understand these key concepts, a variety of teaching methods will be used in lecture, including documentary and film, student discussion and participation. Most of the substantive material will be covered in the lecture time and led by Professor Richmond. The tutorial shall be reserved for group discussion, introduction and/or take-up of assignments, and will include time to discuss and practice skills related to writing, referencing, and other topics as desired by students.

This course will operate in a virtual synchronous format. Below you will find the lecture and tutorial times, with corresponding zoom links.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Lectures	Monday	11:30-1:20	weekly
Tutorials	Thursday	10:30-12:20	
Zoom link for weekly Lectures: https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/92720627430 Meeting ID: 927 2062 7430 Passcode: 872009		Zoom link for weekly Tutorials: https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/94625870334 Meeting ID: 946 2587 0334 Passcode: 906770	

Attendance at synchronous sessions is required. Recordings of lectures and group office hours will be posted, on the same day they are made, to our class OWL site.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

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

6. Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify various causes and consequences of environmental dispossession as they are experienced by Indigenous communities.

Students will gain understanding of the interaction between physical, social and cultural processes and the role they play in creating current day Indigenous landscapes and environments.

Through written work and group discussions, students will build skills in critical thinking, independent thought, and oral and written communication.

7. Course Content and Schedule

Week 1: January 11th and January 14th	
January 11 th , Lecture: 11:30-1:20 Introduction to the course, and to one another	January 14 th No tutorial
Week 2: January 18th and January 21st	
January 18 th , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Indigenous knowledge What is Indigenous knowledge? What does it mean to have a relational or holistic worldview? Why do our Creation stories matter? Film: 12:30-1:20 “Standing above the clouds” https://www.pbs.org/video/standing-above-the-clouds-lw6uce/	January 21 st Tutorial Discussion: 10:30-11:30 *Assignment 1 discussion 11:30-12:20
Week 3: January 25th and January 28th	
January 25 th , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Indigenous connection to the land The land as a place/ space of interconnection between Indigenous knowledge, social relationships, and well-being. What is a cultural imperative? How do principles of Indigenous knowledge converge among people around the world? Films: 12:30 – 1:20: “Ute Knowledge” : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gv201ILHXhc “N'ziibiimnaan - Our River” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4cXrzovFk	January 28 th Tutorial Discussion: 10:30-11:30
Week 4: February 1st and February 4th	
February 1 st , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Environmental Dispossession Part 1 Indirect/ Political form of environmental dispossession, with focus on colonization through policy/ structure/ erasure. How did the Indian Act provide the structure needed to justify the removal people from the land (through creation of reserves, relocation, other)? Film: 12:30-1:20 - “Colonization Road” https://gem.cbc.ca/media/firsthand/season-2/episode-9/38e815a-00b9abca4fc	February 4 th Tutorial Discussion: 10:30-11:30 *Assignment 1 due

Week 5: February 8th and February 11th	
<p>February 8th, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Political forms of environmental dispossession and the impact on cultural identity, including the residential school experience. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission. What is reconciliation?</p> <p>Films: 12:30 – 1:20 Video 1: “Canadian Shame: A History of Residential Schools Ginger Gosnell-Myers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1EDbbse2BM Video 2: Murray Sinclair “On Reconciliation” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wix2zDvyzsU</p>	<p>February 11th</p> <p>Tutorial Discussion: 10:30-11:30</p>
Week 6: February 22nd and February 25th	
<p>February 22nd, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Environmental dispossession Part 2 (Direct forms): Environmental contamination, two cases: Mercury contamination in Grassy Narrows, and Chemical Valley and Aamjiwnaang First Nation</p> <p>Film: 12:30-1:20 -“Canada's Toxic Chemical Valley” https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/canada-toxic-chemical-valley/</p>	<p>February 25th</p> <p>Tutorial discussion: 10:30-11:30</p> <p>*Assignment one hand-back & Assignment two discussion: 11:30-12:20</p>
Week 7: March 1st and March 4th	
<p>March 1st, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Climate change across varying Indigenous ecosystems</p> <p>Film: 12:30-1:20 - “Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change” http://www.isuma.tv/inuit-knowledge-and-climate-change/movie</p>	<p>March 4th</p> <p>Tutorial discussion: 10:30-11:30</p>
Week 8: March 8th and March 11th	
<p>March 8th, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Climate change – Health, social, cultural and economic impacts.</p> <p>Film: 12:30-1:20 - “Angry Inuk” https://gem.cbc.ca/media/cbc-docs-pov/season-1/episode-9/38e815a-00d62667222</p>	<p>March 11th</p> <p>Tutorial discussion: 10:30-11:30</p> <p>*Assignment 2 due</p>
Week 9: March 15th and March 18th	
<p>March 15th, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Environmental dispossession and Urbanization. What are “The Urban Reserves”?</p> <p>Film: 12:30-1:20 - “Life in the City of Dirty Water”</p>	<p>March 18th</p> <p>Tutorial Discussion: 10:30-11:30</p>

https://gem.cbc.ca/media/short-docs/episode-110/38e815a-0127c908087	
Week 10: March 29th and April 1st	
March 29 th , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Environmental dispossession, Indigenous health and food security Film: 12:30-1:20 - “Bad Sugar: Is Inequality making us sick?” https://uwo.kanopy.com/video/bad-sugar	April 1st Tutorial discussion: 10:30-11:30 *Assignment 2 hand-back & Assignment 3 discussion: 11:30-12:20
Week 11: April 5th and April 8th	
April 5 th , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Land Back What is this movement and why does it matter? What does Land Back mean to you? Film or Guest Speaker: 12:30 – 1:20 To be Determined	April 8th Tutorial discussion: 10:30-11:30
Week 12: April 12th	
April 12 th , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Environmental Repossession What is environmental repossession? How are Indigenous people and communities forming reconnection to the land? What might “proxies” for the Land look like? How are Indigenous cultural imperatives applied to form connection to the land in new places and spaces? Review for Final exam: 12:30-1:20 *Assignment 3 Due	No Tutorial

8. Online Participation and Engagement

Students are encouraged to participate and engage with content during lecture. The final 15 minutes of lecture will be dedicated toward class questions and discussion.

Students are expected to participate in weekly tutorial discussion. Immediately following weekly lectures, students will watch films on related concepts and ideas presented. In the OWL site containing weekly materials, students will find “weekly guided discussion.” Each week, students will respond to these guided discussions while watching weekly films, and upload them to OWL ahead of that week’s tutorial. Completion of each guided discussion is worth 1% of a student’s final grade.

9. Communication

- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using OWL “messages”
- For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions. Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions. These discussion forums will be monitored daily by instructors or teaching assistants

10. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Evaluation Components	Weighting	Due dates
Assignment 1: Reflexive essay	20%	Due week 4
Assignment 2: Reflexive essay	20%	Due week 8
Assignment 3: Critical appraisal	20%	Due week 12
Final Exam	30%	To be determined by Registrar
Class and Tutorial Participation	10%	Guided discussion uploaded weekly to OWL

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures, films, and group discussions that occur during Tutorial.

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Virtual proctoring will be used when necessary
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 20 %/day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; An alternate assessment will be assigned OR the weight will be transferred to the final grade

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

11. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and

cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

12. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the scheduled exam, otherwise the instructor will assign a grade of zero.

The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

13. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

14. Online Proctoring Notice and Guidelines

Tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using Zoom. You will be required to keep your camera on for the entire session, hold up your student card for identification purposes, and share your screen with the invigilator if asked to do so at any time during the exam. The exam session will **not** be recorded.*

More information about the use of Zoom for exam invigilation is available in the Online Proctoring Guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>.

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the system requirements for Zoom. Information about the system requirements are available at the following link:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>.

* Please note that Zoom servers are located outside Canada. If you would prefer to use only your first name or a nickname to login to Zoom, please discuss this with your instructor in advance of the test or examination.

Use of Recordings

All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals under special circumstances. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

15. Statements concerning Online Etiquette

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Please “arrive” to class on time
- Please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)

- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire class unless you are invited to speak
- Please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor's request if the internet connection becomes unstable
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, use the "raise hand" function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question
- Remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking
- Self-identify when speaking
- Remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of "netiquette":

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. "Flaming" is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

16. 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.

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>).

17. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

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 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. [Information regarding accommodation of exams](#) is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "[Accessibility at Western](#)" is available.

18. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

19. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)

[Student Development Centre](#)

20. Important Dates

January 11: Classes resume

January 19: Last day to add a second term half course

February 15: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 13 to February 21: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 15: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

April 2: Good Friday

April 12: Classes end

April 13: Study day

April 14 to April 30: Examination Period