



The University of Western Ontario
Indigenous Studies 1020E
Introduction to Indigenous Studies
Lecture (via Zoom): Monday: 1:30 – 3:30
Tutorials: Wednesday or Friday 9:30 – 10:30

Instructor: Dr. Diana Lewis, Assistant Professor,
Department of Geography and Environment/Indigenous Studies
Office Hours (via Zoom/In-person): Monday 10:30 – 12:30 or by appointment.
Email: Diana.Lewis@uwo.ca
Note: If you contact me on weekends, I may not respond until Monday morning.

Teaching Assistant: TBD
Department of Geography and Environment
Office Hours: (via Zoom/In-person) TBD.
Contact Info: smendiza@uwo.ca

Course Description: An interdisciplinary survey of Indigenous historical and contemporary events 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 (Covid permitting).

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:

1. Understand the Aboriginal, treaty, constitutional, and international rights of Indigenous People in Canada;
2. Discuss how/why Aboriginal title is still relevant in various parts of Canada;
3. Articulate how Indigenous knowledges inform decision-making;
4. Understand the foundational history of Canada as a settler-colonial state and how this has led to contemporary events that Indigenous People experience;
5. Engage critically in discussions about the unique place of Indigenous People in Canada.

Required Text - Access to digital books through the bookstore will be provided (if available) before classes start.

- Dickason, O.P. & Newbigging, W. (2019). Indigenous Peoples within Canada: A Concise History. 4th Edition. Oxford University Press.

- Shaheen-Hussain, S., Blackstock, C., & Gabriel, K. E. (2020). *Fighting for a Hand to Hold: Confronting Medical Colonialism Against Indigenous Children in Canada*. McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Lavell-Harvard, D. M., & Brant, J. (2016). *Forever loved: exposing the hidden crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in Canada*. Demeter Press.

Methods of Evaluation:

Item	Description	Value
Class Participation		Total 10%
Test # 1 – September 27th	Multiple choice/short answer	Total 20%
Essay 1 (Due October 29th) 20% Essay 2 (Due March 2nd) 20%	Potential topics to be assigned (2000 words each). Rubric will be shared with assignment.	Total 40%
Final Exam	During exam period	Total 30%

Course Schedule – Readings (TBD):

WK1	September 13th	Introductions, using Zoom, review syllabus.	
September 17th - Last day to register.			
Theme 1: Concepts			
WK2	September 20th	Lecture Concepts – Indigenous knowledges, Indigenous worldviews, (w)holism, interconnectedness, collective societies and rights.	
Theme 2: Pre-contact and early contact			
WK3	September 27th	Test # 1 - Concepts Lecture	
Theme 3: Treaty-making across Canada			
WK4	October 4th	Lecture	
WK5	October 11 th	Thanksgiving - No class	
WK6	October 18th	Lecture	
Theme 4: Colonial Administration of ‘Indians’			
WK7	October 25th	Lecture	
WK8	November 1st	Reading Week	No classes.

Essay # 1 Due October 29th: Topics from Themes 1 to 3 (10%)			
WK9	November 8th	Lecture	
November 12th – Last day to drop a half course without academic penalty.			
Theme 5: Residential Schools			
WK10	November 15th	Film: 2 hours	
WK11	November 22nd	Lecture	
Theme 6: 1969 Indian White Paper – The tide starts to change			
WK12	November 29th	Lecture	
November 30th – Last day to drop a full course without academic penalty.			
December 3rd – Fall term ends.			
Winter Term Begins			
Theme 7: 1960s Scoop and Millennium Scoop			
Week 1	January 3rd	Guest Speaker lecture	
Theme 8: Relocation and Centralization			
Week 2	January 10 th	Lecture	
January 12th – Last day to add a class.			
Theme 9: Theme 9: Success at the Supreme Court of Canada/Reclaiming rights for Indigenous Peoples			
Week 3	January 17 th	Lecture	
Theme 10: Land claims and modern-day treaty negotiations			
Week 4	January 24th	Lecture	
Theme 11: Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples			
Week 5	January 31st	Lecture	
Week 6	February 7 th	Lecture	
Week 7	February 14th	Lecture	
Week 8	February 21st	Reading Week	No classes.
Theme 12: Racism – Children, women & health			

Week 9	February 28 th	Lecture
Essay # 2 Due March 2nd: Topics from Themes 4 to 10 (15%)		
Week 10	March 7 th	Lecture
March 7th – Last day to drop a half course without academic penalty.		
Week 11	March 14 th	Lecture
Theme 13: Impacts of climate change		
Week 12	March 21 st	Guest speaker
Theme 14: Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Calls to Action – Where are we?		
Week 13	March 28 th	Lecture
April 1st – Winter term ends.		
Final Exam During Exam Period		

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

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).

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

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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