The University of Western Ontario
2218G Course Outline
Contemporary Indigenous Issues
Course Outline
Lecture (in person and on zoom): Wednesdays 1.30-4.30pm
Blended format, min 35% on-line

Instructor: Dr Lewis Williams
Office Hours (in person and via Zoom): By appointment.
Email: Lewis.Williams@uwo.ca
Office SSC 3210

I take this opportunity to welcome students to the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-a-pay 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.

Course Description: This course offers an interdisciplinary introduction to contemporary challenges faced by Indigenous peoples in Canada. Topics may include but will not be limited to political mobilization, legal challenges, jurisdictional authorities, self-determination, land rights, treaty relationships, examination of significant policy documents, The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, The National Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the National Inquiry into Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The course will also draw on international examples from other similarly colonized nation states as appropriate.

Pre-requisites: None
Anti-requisite(s): The former Anthropology 2218F/G

*Please note that for the 2021-2022 academic year, this course will be taught using a Blended Format. This means a minimum of 35% content will be delivered online, using synchronous and/or asynchronous formats). Details will be provided on the first day of class and are subject to change depending on local health regulations.

Technical Requirements:

• Stable internet connection
• Laptop or desktop computer with updated software
• Working microphone
• Working webcam
• Western University Zoom application installed
• Detailed specifications (see “computer requirements”): https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/timetables.html
• Western Zoom page, including privacy information: https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html
• If you need technical assistance, first search the OWL Help Page, then contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk using their Online Helpdesk or by calling 519.661.3800 (if on campus, ext. 83800)

Learning Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
1. Understand the genesis of the contemporary issues and challenges faced by Indigenous peoples in Canada.
2. Present contemporary issues from a number of perspectives.
3. Critically analyze and understand how colonization has impacted and continues to impact, Indigenous communities.
5. Deepen self-understanding of their own cultural identity and social power locations and the ways in which these inform their relationship to and agency in addressing the contemporary challenges experienced by Indigenous Peoples of Canada as a result of historic and ongoing colonization.

Course format
This interactive and participatory course will invite students to engage with various dimensions of contemporary issues in Canada as these specifically impact and are experienced by Indigenous Peoples. Both students who are Indigenous to Turtle Island and those not Indigenous to Turtle Island will be encouraged to critically explore and draw on their own experiences, cultural identities, and power locations as a means to situate themselves in relation to the material being discussed.

This course requires active participation from students, both to enhance your own learning and the learning experience of the entire class. Active learning benefits students by supporting higher level learning and improves retention and importantly for this class, integration with prior knowledge, experiences and ways of being. Lectures or facilitated learning experiences will be interspersed with discussion, group work and other activities.

Power points from lectures will be posted online and where possible copies of videoed lectures. Please be mindful of your responsibilities (particularly in terms of your attendance, the quality of your presence and participation in group assignments) as a co-participant in this learning community. The more you put in, the more you will get out of the course!
Required Text:
Eva Mackey (2016). Unsettled Expectations. Uncertainty, Land and Settler Decolonization. Fernwood Publishing. I have ordered these in, and these are available from the University bookstore at $25.00 CAD.

All other assigned readings and other preparations will be available on-line through Western and the course site.

Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Components</th>
<th>Percentage of Course Grade</th>
<th>Assignment Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concept Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>31st January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Bundle One</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Bundle Two</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>28th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spoken Letter</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6th April</td>
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</tbody>
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Grade Breakdown and Explanation

90-100  Excellent. You have surpassed my expectations (very rare)
80-89   Very good. You have fulfilled my expectations
70-79   Good. Expectations are mostly fulfilled with weak areas.
60-69   Satisfactory. There are problems such as confusing writing or expectations are not fulfilled.
50-59   Less than satisfactory. There are major problems.
< 50    Unsatisfactory, Fail.
More information about the assessments will be provided in the first day of class and posted to the class site on OWL.

**Important Dates**

*Classes will commence the week of January 10th, cease during Reading Week, February 19th – 27th, and terminate on April 8th.*

- January 10th: Classes resume
- January 14th: Last day to add a second term half course or a second term full course
- February 21st: Family Day (official holiday), IS office closed.
- February 19th – 27th: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open).
- March 11th: Last day to drop a second term half course or a second term full course without academic penalty.
- April 8th: Classes end.
- April 10th – 30th: Final Examination period.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

Note: The schedule may be subject to change. If there are any changes, we will discuss in class first. We may not discuss or cover all readings in class; however, they are intended to give added context to what is discussed. The readings with an *beside them are not compulsory reading; however, they will strengthen your knowledge of the topic area. Preparation materials should be reviewed before the commencement of class each week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week and Date</th>
<th>Theme/s and learning medium (In person/ online)</th>
<th>Assessments: Due dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WK1 JAN 12th</td>
<td>Appreciating the terrain of contemporary Indigenous Issues in Canada: Introduction to the course and each other On-Line</td>
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<tr>
<td>WK2 JAN 19th</td>
<td>Contemporary Indigenous Issues in Canada: A brief political history of how we got to here. On-Line</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK3 JAN 26th</td>
<td>The global politics of capital accumulation and the colonial nation state On-Line</td>
<td>Assessment One: Concept Paper 20% Due 31st January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WK4 FEB 2nd</td>
<td>Aki: Deshkan Ziibi <em>Location: The Forks</em></td>
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</table>
**Guest speaker:** Wahsayzee Deleary, Chippewa on the Thames  
*In person if possible – COVID restrictions contingent*

| WK 5 FEB 9th | Aki: An international comparative: Aamjiwnaang (and Chemical valley), SW Ontario, and Whareroa Marae, Tauranga Moana, Aotearoa.  
On-line or in person (TBA) |
| WK 6 FEB 16th | MMIWG2S+ in Canada  
Guest Speaker TBA  
On-Line  
Assessment Two: Knowledge Bundle 1  
10% |

**SPRING READING WEEK 19th – 27th February**

| WK 7 MARCH 2nd | MMIWG2S+ in Canada  
On-line or in person (TBA) |
| WK 8 MARCH 9th | Climate Crisis  
On-line or in person (TBA)  
Assessment Three: Knowledge Bundle 2  
10% |
| WK 9 March 16th | Climate Crisis  
On-line or in person (TBA) |
| WK 10 MARCH 23rd | Indigenous languages, Traditional medicines and systems of healing  
On-line or in person (TBA) |
| WK 11 MARCH 30th | Indigenous education as resurgence  
On-line or in person (TBA)  
Research Essay due 28th March  
45% |
| WK 12 APRIL 6th | Review of Semester’s learnings and class reflections.  
On-line or in person (TBA)  
Spoken Letter Week 12  
15% |

**Important Policies**

*Ground Rules for how we manage COVID19*
Masking Guidelines

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire

Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling). Methods for dealing with missed work and course content are at the discretion of the instructor(s). Students should be aware that some learning outcomes cannot be easily made up and may need to be completed in a subsequent year. Your instructor will provide you with further information as to how this applies within this course.

Students who demonstrate a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning.

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor. In the event that online learning is required, a stable v1 (2021.09.03) internet connection with working microphone and webcam will be required. As has been the case in the past, the decision to pivot to online learning will be made by Western, and not individual instructors or departments (excepting temporary online instruction in the event of instructor illness).

Policies for Assignment Deadlines

All written assignments are to be submitted electronically to the instructor and are due on or before the date and time specified under “methods of evaluation” for each assignment. This means if your assignment is due at 9.00am and you submit it at 9.31am, it will be considered late. 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 5% per day, including papers submitted after a specified time. If your assignment is submitted 5 days or more past the due date without sufficient grounds for lateness as specified above, it will be marked purely for your educational benefit. Your mark will not count towards your final grade for the course.
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. 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)](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/index.html) form provided the conditions specified in the [Senate policy](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/index.html) are met. The form can be completed online. The SRA can be used only twice. Please note the important exceptions to this rule: SRA will not be permitted for final exams or assessments worth more than 30% of a course. In other words SRA do not apply to the Research Essay in this 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](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/index.html) (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](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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