

## GEOG 2411G IS 2601G

### Indigenous Environments Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2023

#### 1. Technical Requirements (in the event of remote learning)

- Stable internet connection
- Laptop or 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	Location
In-person lectures	Mondays	11:30-1:20	FNB-2240
In-person tutorials	Wednesdays	9:30-10:30	UCC-61
In-person tutorials	Thursdays	9:30-10:30	SH-2355

Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study days	Exam Period
January 9	February 18-26	April 10	April 11-12	April 13-30

January 17, 2023: Last day to add a second-term half course

March 7, 2023: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Professor Rick Fehr	<a href="mailto:rfehr@uwo.ca">rfehr@uwo.ca</a>	Monday's 2:00-3:00pm, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Satveer Dhillon	<a href="mailto:sdhill84@uwo.ca">sdhill84@uwo.ca</a>	TBA

### 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 in-person, 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 Dr. Fehr. 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-person, but can switch to a virtual synchronous format if needed.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Lectures	Monday	11:30-1:20	weekly
Tutorials	Wednesday Thursday	9:30-10:20 9:30-10:20	weekly

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

<b>Week 1</b>	
January 9 <sup>th</sup> , Lecture: 11:30-1:20 <b>Introduction to the course, and to one another</b>	No tutorial
<b>Week 2</b>	
January 16 <sup>th</sup> , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 <b>Indigenous knowledge</b> What is Indigenous knowledge? What does it mean to have a relational or holistic worldview? Why do Creation stories matter?	January 18/19 Tutorial Discussion: 9:30-10:30  <b>*Assignment 1 discussion 10:30-11:30</b>

<b>Week 3</b>	
<p>January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Lecture: 11:30-12:30  <b>Indigenous connection to the land</b>  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?</p>	<p>January 25/26  Tutorial Discussion:  9:30-10:30</p>
<b>Week 4</b>	
<p>January 30<sup>th</sup>, Lecture: 11:30-12:30  <b>Environmental Dispossession Part 1</b>  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)?</p>	<p>February 1/2  Tutorial Discussion:  9:30-10:30  *Assignment 1 due  February 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:55pm</p>
<b>Week 5</b>	
<p>February 6<sup>th</sup>, Lecture: 11:30-12:30  <b>Political forms of environmental dispossession and the impact on cultural identity, including the residential school experience.</b> The Truth and Reconciliation Commission. What is reconciliation?</p>	<p>February 8/9  Tutorial Discussion:  10:30-11:30</p>

<b>Week 6</b>	
February 13 <sup>th</sup> , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 <b>Environmental dispossession Part 2 (Direct forms): Environmental contamination</b> , two cases: Mercury contamination in Grassy Narrows, and Chemical Valley and Aamjiwnaang First Nation	February 15/16  Tutorial discussion: 10:30-11:30  <i>*Assignment one hand-back &amp; Assignment two discussion: 11:30-12:20</i>
<b>Week 7</b>	
February 27 <sup>th</sup> , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 <b>Climate change across varying Indigenous ecosystems</b>	March 1/2  Tutorial discussion: 10:30-11:30
<b>Week 8</b>	
March 6 <sup>th</sup> , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 <b>Climate change – Health, social, cultural and economic impacts</b>	March 8/9  Tutorial discussion: 10:30-11:30  <i>*Assignment 2 due</i>
<b>Week 9</b>	
March 13 <sup>th</sup> , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 <b>Environmental dispossession and Urbanization. What are “The Urban Reserves”?</b>	March 15/16  Tutorial Discussion: 10:30-11:30

<b>Week 10</b>	
March 20 <sup>th</sup> , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 <b>Environmental dispossession, Indigenous health and food security</b>	March 22/23  Tutorial discussion: 10:30-11:30  *Assignment 2 hand-back & Assignment 3 discussion: 11:30-12:20
<b>Week 11</b>	
March 27 <sup>th</sup> , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 <b>Land Back</b> What is this movement and why does it matter? What does Land Back mean to you?	March 29/20  Tutorial discussion: 10:30-11:30
<b>Week 12</b>	
April 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Lecture: 11:30-12:30  <b>Environmental Repossession</b> 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?	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**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

### **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. 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> ).

## **15. 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.

## **16. 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.

## **17. Support Services**

[Western's Support Services](#)  
[Student Development Centre](#)

## **18. Important Dates**

January 9: Classes resume

January 17: Last day to add a second term half course

February 20: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 20-26: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 7: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

April 10: Classes end

April 11: Study day

April 13-30: Examination Period (excluding Fri Apr 15 thru Sun Apr 17)