

Geography 2411G / First Nations Studies 2601G
INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTS – WINTER 2013

Instructor Information

Professor C. Richmond
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Office Hours: Mondays immediately after class

TA Information

TBD

Meeting Times and Places

Lecture: Mondays 11:30 am -1:30 pm, UCC 63
Tutorials: Tuesday 9:30 am – 10:30 am, SSC 2036

Course Description: In this course, we will examine the special relationship between Indigenous peoples and their physical environments. We will explore the causes and consequences of environmental change as they are experienced by Indigenous communities from around the globe including those related to: identity, food, health, water quality, local economies, social functioning and urbanization. Overarching themes such as colonialism and environmental dispossession will guide the course, with particular emphasis on their consequences for community well-being.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to identify various causes and consequences of environmental change as they are experienced by Indigenous communities. Students will gain understanding of the interaction between physical and social processes and the role they play in creating current day Indigenous landscapes and environments. Critical thinking, independent research, teamwork, and oral and written communication skills will be enhanced.

Course Prerequisites: 1.0 course from [Geography 1100](#), [1300A/B](#), [1400F/G](#), [1500F/G](#) or the former Geography 020E, or [First Nations Studies 1020E](#), or permission from the Instructor. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may 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

Required Readings: A custom courseware has been prepared for this course and is available for purchase in the Book store. Other required readings will be placed on WebCT.

Course Evaluation: Graded components include: a reflexive essay, a critical appraisal, a group essay & presentation, and an in-class exam. The mark break-down is as follows:

- Assignment 1: Reflexive Essay 10%
- Assignment 2: Critical Appraisal 15%
- Assignment 3: Group Essay and Presentation 30%
- Group Evaluations 5%
- In Class Exam 30%
- Attendance and participation: 10%

PRELIMINARY LECTURE, READING & TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

| Date | Lecture Topic | Tutorial Topic |
|--|--|---|
| Part I: Indigenous Peoples and the Environment | | |
| Week 1 Jan 7 | Defining Indigenous peoples Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herman, 2008 | Jan 8 No Tutorial this week |
| Week 2 Jan 14 | Indigenous knowledge & Relationship to land Film: <i>Our Identity, Our Land [Hawaii]</i> Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation Story • LaDuke, 1994, p. 78-88 • McGregor, 2004, p. 385-410 • Battiste & Henderson, 2000, p. 35-48 | Jan 15 Discussion of: <i>Our Identity, Our Land</i> |
| Week 3 Jan 21 | Environmental Dispossession: Colonization, Contamination & Climate Change Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richmond and Ross, 2009 • Salick & Byg, 2007 • LaDuke, 1999, p. 11-26 | Jan 22 Assignment 1 introduced: What does it mean to be reflexive? |
| Part II: Results of environmental dispossession in Indigenous communities | | |
| Week 4 Jan 28 | Cultural identity & the Residential School Film: <i>Mino-Bimadiziwin, The Good Life [Minnesota]</i> Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fournier & Crey, Chapter 1 • LaDuke, 1999. p115-138 | Jan 29 Reflexive thinking and discussion on <i>Mino-Bimadiziwin, The Good Life</i> |
| Week 5 Feb 4 | Human Health and Well-Being Film: <i>Seeking Bimadiziwin</i> Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson and Richmond, 2007 • Panelli & Tipa, 2007 • Postl et al., 2010 | Feb 5 |
| Week 6 Feb 11 | Social Determinants of health: Education, Family & Social support Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LaDuke, 1999 pp.187-196 • Richmond, Smith & Wabano, 2012 <p>* Assignment 1 due</p> | Feb 12 Discussion on Safe Injection Sites Assignment 2 introduced |

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| Feb 18 | ---- READING WEEK: No Class-No Tutorial ----- | Feb 19 |
| Week 7 Feb 25 | Food security & Safe drinking water Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LaDuke, 2005 pp. 191-212 • White, Murphy & Spence, 2012 • Hook and Raumati , 2011 | Feb 26 Assignment 3 introduced & groups formed |
| Week 8 Mar 4 | Urbanization, homelessness and poverty Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LaPrairie, 1995 • Barcham, 1998 • Jaccoud & Brassard, 2001 <p>* Assignment 2 due</p> | Mar 5 Group meetings |
| Part III: Resilience to Environmental Dispossession by Indigenous communities | | |
| Week 9 Mar 11 | Using the land to make an economy Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coria, & Calfucura, 2012 • Turner, Berkes & Turner, 2012 • Vermeulen, 2008 | Mar 12 |
| Week 10 Mar 18 | Community self-determination in research Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LaDuke, W. 2005 • Smith, L.T. 1999 | Mar 19 Exam Review |
| Week 11 Mar 25 | * In class exam | Apr 2 Group Meetings |
| Week 12 Apr 1 | Making Maps work for Indigenous communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbins, 2003 • Harmsworth, 1998 • Tripath & Bhattary, 2004 | Mar 26 Group Presentations |
| Week 13 Apr 8 | *Assignment 3 due Group Presentations | Apr 9 Group Presentations Continued |

Course Materials: Custom courseware is available for purchase in the Bookstore. Other required readings will be placed on WebCT.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

Statement on 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, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

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>).

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Policy on Accommodation for Medical illness: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment information coming soon