

Geography 2411G / First Nations Studies 2601G
INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTS – WINTER 2014

Instructor Information

[January 6 – February 24]
Professor C. Richmond
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Instructor Information

[March 3 – End of term]
Dr. H. Tait Neufeld
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TA Information

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Meeting Times and Places

Lecture: Mondays 11:30 am -1:30 pm, SSC 3010
Tutorials: Tuesday 9:30 am – 10:30 am, UCC 54B

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 OWL.

Course Evaluation:	
Graded Component	Date due
Assignment 1: reflexive essay 15%	February 10
Assignment 2: critical appraisal 20%	March 4
In Class, open-book exam 30%	March 24
Assignment 3: group essay and presentation 30%	April 7
Assignment 3: group evaluations 5%	April 7

LECTURE, READINGS & TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
Part I: Indigenous Peoples and the Environment		
Week 1 Jan 6	Defining Indigenous Peoples Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Fact Sheet • TED Talk (see link in Reading List) • Wilson, Richmond and Snyder (2014) 	Jan 7 No Tutorial this week
Week 2 Jan 13	Indigenous Knowledge & Relationship to Land Film: <i>Our Identity, Our Land [Hawaii]</i> Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LaDuke (1994) • McGregor (2004) • Berkes (2008) 	Jan 14 Discussion of: <i>Our Identity, Our Land</i>
Week 3 Jan 20	Framing Environmental Dispossession: Colonization, Contamination & Climate Change Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richmond and Ross (2009) • Salick & Byg (2007) • LaDuke (1999) 	Jan 21 Assignment 1 introduced: What does it mean to be reflexive?
Part II: Outcomes of environmental dispossession in Indigenous communities		
Week 4 Jan 27	Cultural identity & the Residential Schools Film: <i>Mino-Bimadiziwin, The Good Life [Minnesota]</i> Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LaDuke (1999) • Fournier & Crey (1997) • Postl et al. (2010) 	Jan 28
Week 5 Feb 3	Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White, Murphy & Spence (2012) Explore the Mother Earth Water Walk: http://vimeo.com/22464388 http://www.motherearthwaterwalk.com/index.php/news/168	Feb 4
Week 6 Feb 10	Social Determinants of Health: Social Support & Education Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Solid Facts • Richmond, Smith & Wabano (2012) 	Feb 11 Assignment 2 introduced

	* Assignment 1 due	
Feb 17	---- READING WEEK: No Class-No Tutorial -----	Feb 18
Week 7 Feb 24	Human Health and Well-being Film: <i>Seeking Biimadisiwin</i> Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adelson (2005) • Panelli & Tipa (2007) 	Feb 25 Assignment 3 introduced & groups formed
Week 8 Mar 3	Food Security & Traditional Foods Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omura (2006) • Spiegelaar & Tsuji. (2013) Film: Ted Talk: Winona LaDuke – Seeds of our Ancestors, Seeds of Life (18 min) * Assignment 2 due	Mar 4 Group meetings
Part III: Resilience to Environmental Dispossession by Indigenous communities		
Week 9 Mar 10	Revitalization of Traditional Healing Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbins & Dewar (2011) • Waldram (2013). Guest Speaker: Liz Akiwenzie (to be confirmed)	Mar 11
Week 10 Mar 17	Community Self-determination in Research Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De Leeuw S et al. (2012) • LaVeaux D. & Christopher S. (2009) Guest Speakers: Joshua Tobias (to be confirmed)	Mar 18 Exam Review
Week 11 Mar 24	* In class exam	Mar 25 Group Meetings
Week 12 Mar 31	Using the land to make an economy / Self-Government Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coria, & Calfucura (2012) • Vermeylen (2008) Film: 8 th Fire: Whose Land is it Anyway? (45 min)	Apr 1 Group Meetings
Week 13 Apr 7	*Assignment 3 due Group Presentations	

Course Materials: All required readings will be placed on OWL.

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 Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.