

**Geography 2411G / First Nations Studies 2601G**  
**INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTS**  
**Course Outline WINTER 2018**

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**Instructor Information**

Professor Chantelle Richmond  
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Office Hours: Mondays 1:30pm-3:45pm

**TA Information**

Laura Peach  
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Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm

**Lecture:** Mondays 11:30 am -1:30 pm, Kresge Building-K203

**Tutorial:** Tuesday 9:30 am – 10:30 am, Somerville House-3317

**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 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](#), [2131A/B](#), [2153A/B](#), [Environmental Science 1021F/G](#) or [First Nations Studies 1020E](#); [Women's Studies 1020E](#), [Health Sciences 1001A/B](#) and [Health Sciences 1002A/B](#); [Sociology 1020](#), [1021E](#), [1025A/B](#), [1026F/G](#), [1027A/B](#) or enrolment in the Major in Ecosystem Health or in any of the Globalization Studies modules, 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

**Course Materials and Required Readings:** All readings and assignments will be placed on the course folder in OWL.

<b>Course Evaluation:</b>	
<b>Graded Component</b>	<b>Date due</b>
Assignment 1: Reflexive essay 20%	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Assignment 2: Critical appraisal 20%	February 13 <sup>th</sup>
Midterm exam 25%	March 5 <sup>th</sup>
Assignment 3: Group essay 20% and presentation 10%	March 27 <sup>th</sup> / April 2 <sup>rd</sup>
Assignment 3: Group Assessment & Reflection 5%	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>

## LECTURE, READINGS & TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
<b>Part I: Indigenous Peoples and the Environment</b>		
<b>Week 1</b> Jan 8	<b>Who are Indigenous Peoples &amp; Why significance does the land hold?</b> Introduction and discussion  Readings: Richmond (2017)	Jan 9 Intro to TA & TED Talk “Endangered Cultures” by Wade Davis
<b>Week 2</b> Jan 15	<b>Indigenous Knowledge: Relating people and the Land</b>  Film: <i>Mino-Bimadiziwin, The Good Life [Minnesota]</i>  <b><u>**This film is central to Assignment 1**</u></b>  Readings: LaDuke (1994); Parlee and Berkes (2005); Kingsley (2009); Richmond (2015)	Jan 16  Assignment 1 details: What does it mean to be reflexive?
<b>Week 3</b> Jan 22	<b>Framing Environmental Dispossession: Colonization, Contamination &amp; Climate Change</b>  Readings: Richmond & Ross (2009); LaDuke (1999); Salick & Byg (2007)	Jan 23  <b>* Assignment 1 due</b>
<b>Part II: Experiences of environmental dispossession</b>		
<b>Week 4</b> Jan 29	<b>Cultural identity and the Residential Schools</b> Film (optional): <i>Where the Spirit Lives</i>  Readings: Crey (1997); NWAC’s Fact Sheet on Residential Schools (2015)	Jan 30  <b>Assignment 2 introduced</b>
<b>Week 5</b> Feb 5	<b>Environmental Change and Water Security</b> <b>Readings:</b> Castleden et al. (2016); Sarkar et al. (2015).  Explore the Mother Earth Water Walk: <a href="http://vimeo.com/22464388">http://vimeo.com/22464388</a> <a href="http://www.motherearthwaterwalk.com/index.php/news/168">http://www.motherearthwaterwalk.com/index.php/news/168</a>	Feb 6
<b>Week 6</b> Feb 12	<b>Health &amp; the Social Determinants of health</b> Readings: NCCAH Fact sheet; Christensen (2017); Caron (2015).	Feb 13 <b>* Assignment 2 due</b>
<b>Feb 19</b>	<b>READING WEEK: No Class</b>	Feb 20 <b>No Tutorial</b>
<b>Week 7</b> Feb 26	<b>Food Security, Traditional Foods &amp; Food Sovereignty</b> Readings: Grey and Patel (2015); LaDuke (2005)	Feb 27 <b>Exam Review</b>

	Supplemental Readings: Canadian Council of Academies (2014)  Film: Ted Talk: Winona LaDuke – Seeds of our Ancestors, Seeds of Life (18 min)	
<b>Week 8</b> Mar 5	<b>* Midterm exam</b>	Mar 6 <b>Assignment 3 introduced &amp; groups formed</b>
<b>Part III: Indigenous communities and the future</b>		
<b>Week 9</b> Mar 12	<b>What is community Self-determination? How can self-determination be applied to research?</b> Readings: Richmond (2016); Bird-Naytowhow et al. (2017); Ginn and Kulig (2015)  Film: Gifts from the Elders	Mar 13 Take-up Exam
<b>Week 10</b> Mar 19	<b>Revitalization of Traditional Healing – Reconciling relationship to land and one another</b> Readings: Waldram (1997); LaDuke (2005); Makokis and Makokis (2015)	Mar 20 No Tutorial/ Group Meetings
<b>Week 11</b> Mar 26	<b>Environmental repossession – the future of Indigenous Geography?</b>  Readings: Big-Canoe & Richmond (2014); Richmond and Big-Canoe (Forthcoming)	Mar 27 <b>Final Presentations</b>
<b>Week 12</b> April 2	<b>Final Presentations</b>	Apr 3 <b>Assignment 3 Due</b> Group assessment and Reflection

#### **Accommodation for Medical Illness:**

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

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.

#### **Special Accommodation and Makeup exams:**

Students with special accommodation will write make-up tests and examinations administered by the department on Fridays during respective periods of fall and winter terms. To prevent prior disclosure, the format and contents of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

**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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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> ).

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

**Mental Health**

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocon/mentalhealth/>.

**Western's commitment to accessibility**

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western. 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 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

**Support Services**

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

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