

GEOG 2411G/ FNS 2601G – Indigenous Environments

Course Outline: Winter 2019

1. Course Information

1.1. Classroom Location:

Lecture: Mondays 11:30 am -1:30 pm, Social Science Centre 3006

Tutorial: Tuesday 9:30 am – 10:30 am, Social Science Centre 3028

1.2. Contact Information:

Professor: Chantelle Richmond

Office location: SSC 2433

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30pm-3:45pm

E-mail: chantelle.richmond@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: Steven Vanloffeld

Office Location: SSC 3107

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30-Noon

Email: svanloff@uwo.ca

2. Calendar 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.

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

3. Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course, however there are assigned weekly readings, which will be placed on the course OWL site. Please read in advance of class as these readings will form the basis of the lectures and discussion.

4. Course Objectives and Format

This is a lecture based course that will emphasise theoretical and applied concepts through readings, lecture and class discussion. To learn about and understand these key concepts, a variety of teaching methods will be used in lecture, including documentary and film, guest visits, student discussion and participation. Most of the substantive material will be covered in the lecture time and led by Professor Richmond. The tutorial shall be reserved for introduction and take-up of assignments, including time to discuss and practice skills related to writing, referencing, working in groups, delivering presentations, and other topics as desired by 2411/2601 students.

5. Learning Outcomes

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. Through written, oral presentations and group assignments, students will build skills in critical thinking, independent research, teamwork, and oral and written communication.

6. Evaluation

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Due dates and Timelines
Assignment 1: Reflexive essay	15%	January 28
Assignment 2: Critical appraisal	20%	February 26
Assignment 3: Group Essay	30%	April 8th
Final Exam	30%	To be determined by Registrar
Class and Tutorial Participation	5%	

Students are responsible for material covered in lectures, tutorials as well as assigned readings.

For Western's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC please refer to the [Academic Handbook](#).

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.

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.

7. LECTURE, READINGS & TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic
Part I: Indigenous Peoples and the Environment		
Week 1 Jan 7	Who are Indigenous Peoples & Why this course? Introduction to the course and to one another. Readings: Richmond (2017); LaDuke (2005)	Jan 8 Intro to TA TED Talk “Endangered Cultures” by Wade Davis
Week 2 Jan 14	Indigenous Knowledge: Relating people and the Land Film: <i>Mino-Bimidziwin, The Good Life [Minnesota]</i> **This film is central to Assignment 1** Readings: LaDuke (1994); Tagalik (2015)	Jan 15 *Assignment 1 introduced What does it mean to be reflexive?
Week 3 Jan 21	Introduction to the concept of Environmental Dispossession Readings: Richmond & Ross (2009) Colonization Road: https://www.cbc.ca/firsthand/episodes/colonization-road	Jan 22 Discussion on Colonization Road
Part II: Experiences of environmental dispossession		
Week 4 Jan 28	Cultural identity and the Residential Schools Readings: Crey (1997); Selected readings from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (To Be Determined) * Assignment 1 due	Jan 29 Assignment 2 introduced
Week 5 Feb 4	Indigenous people and water Readings: Wheatley (1997); Sarkar and Hanrahan (2015)	Feb 5 No tutorial
Week 6 Feb 11	Health & the social determinants of health Readings: Caron (2015); MacDougall (2015) Ted Talk by Marcia Andersen: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpKjtujtEYI	Feb 12 Assignment 1 take-up & Assignment 2 help
Feb 18	READING WEEK: No Class ☺	Feb 19-- No Tutorial
Week 7 Feb 25	Food Security and Traditional Food Systems Film: Ted Talk: Winona LaDuke – Seeds of our Ancestors, Seeds of Life (18 min)	Feb 26 No Tutorial

	Reading: LaDuke (2005) * Assignment 2 due	
Week 8 Mar 4	Indigenous people and the city Readings: Lucero (2014); Peters and Andersen (2013) chapter 1 **Special lecture by Joel Kennedy, N’Amerind Friendship Centre	Mar 5 Assignment 3 introduced & Groups formed
Part III: Indigenous communities and the future		
Week 9 Mar 11	What is community self-determination? How and why can self-determination be applied to research? Readings: Richmond (2016); Nonomiya and Pollock, 2017 Film: Gifts from the Elders *Lecture by Dr. Josh Tobias, Cancer Care Ontario	Mar 12 Assignment 2 taken up
Week 10 Mar 18	Revitalization of Traditional Healing – Reconciling relationship to land and one another Readings: Makokis and Makokis (2015) **Teachings by Elder Liz Akiwenzie	Mar 19 Group Meetings
Week 11 Mar 25	Environmental repossession – the future of Indigenous Geography? Readings: Richmond and Big-Canoe (2018)	Mar 26 Group meetings
Week 12 April 1	Final Presentations	Apr 2 No Tutorial
Week 13 April 8	Final Presentations ** Group Paper due	Apr 9 Exam Review

8. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided the Academic Counselling Office and Instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. For missed exams, you must take your documentation to Academic Counselling within 48 hours of the 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.

9. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

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>).

10. 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.

11. Medical Issues

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. The Student Services website provides greater detail about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation.

12. 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.

13. Support Services

Student Support Services

Student Development Services

14.Important Dates

January 7: Classes resume

January 15: Last day to add a second term half course

February 18: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 18 to 22: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

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

April 9: Classes end

April 10: Study day

April 11-30: Examination Period