

GEOG 2411F/G IND STUD 2601F/G

Indigenous Environments Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2024

1. Course Information



Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 8	February 19-23	April 8	April 9 & 10	April 11-30

January 16, 2024: Last day to add a second-term half course

February 19, 2024: Family Day

March 7, 2024: Last day to drop a second term half course without academic penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Professor Chantelle Richmond	chantelle.richmond@uwo.ca	Monday's 2:00-3:00pm, or by appointment in SSC 2433

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Victoria Bomberry	Ebomber2@uwo.ca	TBD



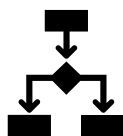
- Dr. Richmond's office hours will be held Monday's immediately after class in SSC 2433
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment by emailing Dr. Richmond or Victoria

2. Calendar Description

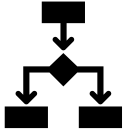
The consequences of physical environmental change for Indigenous communities around the globe will be examined in relation to the processes of colonialism and environmental dispossession. Topics include: identity, culture, local economies, social functioning, food security and health

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.”

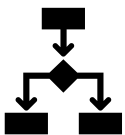
3. Textbook



All resources will be posted in OWL

4. Course Objectives and Format

This is a lecture-based course that will emphasise theoretical and applied concepts of environmental dispossession 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 Professor Richmond. 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.



- Attendance to lectures and tutorials is required
- Missed work should be completed within 48 hours

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](#). [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

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.

5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion 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.

6. Course Content and Schedule

Week 1	
January 8 th , Lecture: 11:30-1:20 Introduction to the course, and to one another	No tutorial
Week 2	
January 15 th , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Indigenous knowledge What is Indigenous knowledge? What does it mean to have a relational or holistic worldview? Why do our Creation stories matter? Film: 12:30-1:20 “Cradling the Heart: An Anishinabek Creation Story” Cradling the Heart: An Anishinabek Creation Story Nipissing University	January 17/18 Tutorial Discussion: 9:30-10:20 Assignment 1 introduced.
Week 3	
January 22, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Indigenous connection to the land 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? Films: 12:30 – 1:20: “Ute Knowledge” : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gv201ILHXhc “N'ziibiimnaan - Our River” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4cXrzovFk	January 24/25 Tutorial Discussion: 9:30-10:20
Week 4	
January 29, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Environmental Dispossession Part 1 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)? Film: 12:30-1:20 - “Colonization Road” Colonization Road Nipissing University Assignment 1 due	January 31/February 1 Tutorial Discussion: 9:30-10:20 Assignment 2 introduced.



Week 5	
<p>February 5th, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Political forms of environmental dispossession and the impact on cultural identity, including the residential school experience. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission. What is reconciliation?</p> <p>Films: 12:30 – 1:20 Video 1: “Canadian Shame: A History of Residential Schools Ginger Gosnell-Myers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1EDbbse2BM Video 2: Murray Sinclair “On Reconciliation” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjx2zDvyzsU</p>	<p>February 7/8</p> <p>Tutorial Discussion: 9:30-10:20</p>
Week 6	
<p>February 12th, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Environmental dispossession Part 2 (Direct forms): Environmental contamination, two cases: Mercury contamination in Grassy Narrows, and Chemical Valley and Aamjiwnaang First Nation</p> <p>Film: 12:30-1:20 -“There’s something in the water” There's Something in the Water Kanopy</p>	<p>February 14/15</p> <p>Tutorial discussion: 9:30-10:20</p>
Week 7	
<p>February 26th, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Climate change across varying Indigenous ecosystems</p> <p>Film: 12:30-1:20 - “Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change” http://www.isuma.tv/inuit-knowledge-and-climate-change/movie</p> <p>Assignment 2 due</p>	<p>February 28/29</p> <p>Tutorial discussion: 9:30-10:20</p> <p>Assignment 3 introduced.</p>
Week 8	
<p>March 4th, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Climate change – Health, social, cultural and economic impacts</p> <p>Film: 12:30-1:20 - “TBD”</p>	<p>March 9/10</p> <p>Tutorial discussion: 9:30-10:20</p>
Week 9	
<p>March 11th Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Environmental dispossession and Urbanization. What are “The Urban Reserves”?</p> <p>Film: 12:30-1:20 - “TBD”</p>	<p>March 16/17th</p> <p>Tutorial Discussion: 9:30-10:20</p>

Week 10	
March 18th, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Environmental dispossession, Indigenous health and food security Film: 12:30-1:20 - “Bad Sugar: Is Inequality making us sick?” https://uwo.kanopy.com/video/bad-sugar Assignment 3 due.	March 23/24 Tutorial discussion: 9:30-10:20
Week 11	
March 25th, Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Land Back What is this movement and why does it matter? What does Land Back mean to you? Film 12:30 – 1:20 “Gather” Gather Kanopy	March 30/31 Tutorial discussion: 9:30-10:20
Week 12	
April 1 st , Lecture: 11:30-12:30 Environmental Repossession 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
Week 13	
April 8 th : 11:30-12:20 Class wrap up and exam review	No Tutorial

7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- 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](#).
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours

8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Evaluation Components	Weighting	Due dates
Assignment 1: Reflexive essay	15%	Due week 4
Assignment 2: Reflexive essay	15%	Due week 7
Assignment 3: Critical appraisal	20%	Due week 10
Final Exam	30%	To be determined by Registrar
Class and Tutorial Participation**	20%	Guided discussion completed each week and shared in tutorial.

** Participation grade is evaluated as such: 1% for each guided discussion (up to 10 total), and 1% for tutorial attendance (up to 10 total).



The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin
- Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin
- 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 10%/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.

9. 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](#).

10. 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.

11. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

12. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.



13. 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>).

14. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment 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.

15. 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.

16. Support Services

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

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

17. Important Dates

Monday January 8: Classes resume

Tuesday January 16: Last day to add a second term half course

Monday February 19: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 17 to February 25: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

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

Friday March 29: Good Friday – Department Office Closed

Monday April 8: Classes end

April 9 and 10: Study days

April 11-30: Examination Period