



University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
INTRODUCTION TO INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING
INDG 303 L03
Fall 2018
Thursday - 17:00 – 19:45
Location: SS 010

Instructor: Ramona Beatty
Email: rgjbeatt@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: SS 721-Monday 1:30- 2:30 or by appointment

Course Description - This course offers an introduction to the basic epistemologies (ways of knowing) of Canadian Indigenous peoples with an emphasis on the theoretical and ontological principles that form Indigeneity. We will explore Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing and how these domains inform the conceptualization, construction, and renewal of knowledge. The course will examine the constructs of Indigeneity and how they are informed by relationship, collective responsibility, reciprocity, respect, spirituality and identity.

Indigenous knowledge is relational and participatory; hence, the general structuring of the class and the assignments will reflect this perspective. Students will be required to explore Indigenous epistemology through engaging and participating in a process that is a reflection of Indigenous ways of building knowledge.

CLASS STRUCTURE AND INSTRUCTION METHODS - The course draws from a mixture of Western and Indigenous knowledge. Methods include: short lectures, videos, class discussions, student presentations, and presentations by guest lecturers. The lectures provide the basic course material. The course syllabus and schedule may be altered throughout the term to accommodate emerging issues and events. Note: Readings for the scheduled day need to be read prior to class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To increase the student's awareness of, understanding of, and respect for Indigenous worldviews and perspectives, knowledge, realities, experiences

- To introduce the student to ways of knowing that fall outside the western scientific precepts
- To demonstrate insights about Indigenous realities from a multi-disciplinary approach (e.g., history, social work, education, sociology) to the field of Indigenous Studies.
- To give the student experience at critically thinking and analyzing Indigenous peoples experiences within a historical and contemporary context.
- To demonstrate an awareness of the fundamental concepts of the course and how together they aid in the understanding of issues faced by Indigenous peoples
- To develop in the student an understanding of colonialism, and the diverse and enduring impacts upon Indigenous people, and the legacy of the colonial relationship.
- To expand understanding of the concepts of Indigenous and de-colonization
- To expand understanding of the concepts of Indigeneity

RELATIONSHIP to Other Courses- This course is a prerequisite to SOWK 555.43 and INDG 305. This course is part of a core curriculum for the International Indigenous Studies Program and an elective for the BSW Program in the Faculty of Social Work.

TEXTBOOK AND ASSIGNED READINGS - No text is required for this course. Instead, readings will be available on the course D2L site.

COMMUNICATION- I will respond to emails within 48 hours but not on weekends.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Reflective Writing: 20% - October 11 and November 22

The student will complete 2 reflection essays related to course readings and lecture concepts. The essays will consist of 6-8 pages double spaced that will demonstrate reflection and application of class concepts. The reflective writing should represent an issue of the student's choice from the course reading, films, and discussion in the preceding weeks. The work should refer to course readings, films and discussion and must demonstrate some analytical thought on the part of the author.

In other words, take an issue and discuss it in depth; do not simply write up a summary of the readings or class discussion. All sources that you use should be properly cited. Although these are short papers, please do not regard them as informal. They should have proper grammar and essay structure, including an introduction, discussion/argument and conclusion.

Individual Research Project Presentation and Discussion Questions-40% -

You are responsible for a research project that will focus on the development and presentation of a formal and in class oral presentation on your chosen topic. The presentation will examine a historical and/or contemporary issue/topic that is related to Indigenous peoples ``**Ways of Knowing and Being**``. Please ensure that your topic incorporates the course objectives. You will be required to research and develop a **45 minute seminar** which will include class discussion and questions.

The presentation will be completed in class and may include handouts and visual aids (power point, web project, art piece or any other appropriate presentational approach). Reference materials should be incorporated in the presentation utilizing APA format.

The presentation must critically examine and analyze an issue facing Indigenous people and explore the impact on their ``**Ways of Knowing and Being**`` from a historical and contemporary perspective. (e.g. colonization, education, social justice, research) You will need to discuss your project with me by September 20.

You will be responsible for developing and providing to the instructor three discussion questions and a thorough and accurate response to the questions.

The presentation requires at least 6 references which must be from academic sources. Reference materials should be incorporated in the presentation and synopsis utilizing APA or MLA format.

Please provide the instructor with hard copies of presentation materials, references, and questions/answers.

Failure by a student to present to the class will result in a failing grade.

Final Essay – 20 % - The essay is an 8-10 page research paper that critically analyzes your presentation topic's concepts and constructs and the relationship to the course objectives. `

Class Participation – 20 % Participation is deemed as attendance, class discussion and active participation in group learning. This course will be highly interactive and will include various opportunities for active engagement during each class session, including organized discussions, debates, small group work, etc. Your participation will be graded based on the consistency and thoughtfulness of your contributions, and on your alert and respectful interaction with others in the class.

Course work Submissions for Indigenous Studies

All course work submissions for Indigenous Studies such as assignments, papers, take home final exams and other course work related to this program of study should be submitted to

SS 56 (Department of Political Science, 7th floor of Social Sciences) during their office hours. When the office is closed, the brown Dropbox is located on the wall beside SS 756. Submissions should no longer be submitted to the 1st floor, SS 102.

GRADING SCALE

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|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|
| A+ | 96 – 100% | C+ | 65 – 69.99% |
| A | 90 – 95.99% | C | 60 – 64.99% |
| A - | 85 – 89.99% | C - | 55 – 59.99% |
| B+ | 80 – 84.99% | D+ | 53 – 54.99% |
| B | 75 – 79.99% | D | 50 – 52.99% |
| B - | 70 – 74.99% | F | 0 – 49.99% |

The International Indigenous Studies Program uses the percentage conversion scale below. Your final grade will be converted to the University's official 4-point scale at the end of term. The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>. The A+ grade is assigned rarely, and only for absolutely breathtaking work.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Writing Statement:

Written assignments are often required in Indigenous Studies courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of term work:

Instructors are normally free, subject to any established departmental or faculty procedures, to administer their own policies regarding deadlines for the completion of term papers or assignments. Please see policies on this course outline. Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations.

See *Calendar*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head of Political Science. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of

receipt of the graded assignment. Please note that the “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at

www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at

www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your

classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Campus Mental Health Resources:

Student Union Wellness Centre <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre>

Campus Mental Health Strategy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth>

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Facebook Group for Indigenous Studies Program:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UC.IIST/>

Program Website:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/indg/>

Native Centre Website:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/nativecentre/>