



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS STUDIES

INDG 399.5 (01)

**Selected Topics in International Indigenous Studies:  
International Indigenous Film**

Summer 2019

MW | 12.00-2.45pm | SA121

Instructor: Aruna Srivastava

Office: SS1018

Phone: 403 220 4663 (please do not leave voicemail; contact me by email instead)

E-mail: [asrivast@ucalgary.ca](mailto:asrivast@ucalgary.ca)

Office hours: Wednesday 3.00-4.30pm or by appointment

Course website: [d2l.ucalgary.ca](http://d2l.ucalgary.ca)

**Course description:**

Calendar description: *Selected themes in International Indigenous studies. May focus on Indigenous peoples of only one country.*

This course will focus on film, video, digital media (games, video, social media, television) by Indigenous peoples in various parts of the world, but particularly on settler-colonial nations such as Australia, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Turtle Island (Canada and the US). We will explore such issues as the representations of indigenous peoples in relation to colonial ideologies, how indigenous filmmakers are using film to convey indigenous ways of knowing, and we will engage in concepts of identity, decolonization, sovereignty, community and relationship-building. We will examine issues of “authorship” in media production (i.e. what exactly constitutes “indigenous film”? ), as well as aspects of film theory that will enable us to view films from a critical perspective.

You will find many aspects of this course challenging, in that the content and form of the media are often unfamiliar, as well as the political contexts and histories that inform them. These challenges will make the course research-intensive, as we attempt to fill in “knowledge gaps” about indigenous people’s histories, art forms and current realities. In addition, one of the demanding elements of this course is consistent (and constant) reflection and critique, which is essential in learning (and unlearning) what we know or think we know about indigenous peoples at home and around the world.

This is an inquiry-based course, and requires that you contribute significantly and consistently to discussions, especially online. A good deal of independent work is expected of you, and you may find the amount of material available in the online environment to be daunting initially. Please read the documents on inquiry-based learning in D2L. This course will be made up of class meetings, group meetings, independent as well as collaborative research work, and a good deal of reflection. Attendance for all aspects of the class is therefore a must. We may not meet for every class session if we find that more online or smaller group meeting time is required, or if media-time is required. Please see links provided during the term for information on blended (a mix of face-to-face and online) and inquiry-based learning, readings, course material, details on scheduling and assignments.

I also do provide extensive guidelines for assignments that may be unfamiliar to you: Indigenous Studies requires reflection, collaboration, and research equally, and asks that you become aware of your ways of learning and processing knowledge: assignments are based on this assumption, and have a good deal of flexibility built in. If you have any difficulties during the course, I invite you and expect you to talk to me about them.

**Texts and readings:** All required and optional readings will be on D2L, to keep text costs down. Much of the media you will find is free, but some not located in libraries you will have to pay to rent. An extensive list of film resources can be found on D2L. You will find this useful in coming up with final work for your portfolio, lines of inquiry and

journal reflections. I have done my best to list locations, including library links, on D2L, and many media are available through Indigenous television and media sources. We will view some (but not all) films and media during class time. It is therefore essential that you be comfortable with the online environment of D2L, and ensure you have access to the university library and, preferably, a public library as well. You may need to stream videos/films (on your own or at a library), and, on occasion, use older technologies such as DVDs. Most libraries will provide access to these technologies. In addition, I have a number of films on DVD available for borrowing.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

**Learning and research log:** **30%** (mid-term hand-in July 17)

**Participation** **20%**

**Reflective journal** **20%** (mid-term hand-in July 17)

**Portfolio:** **30%**

Portfolio Includes film reviews, two lines of inquiry, narrative peer and self-assessment *at minimum* (see D2L for portfolio instructions and breakdown).

- ***There is no registrar-scheduled examination for this course.***
- **All final assignments will be due on August 13<sup>th</sup>, unless you take an extension. Extension policies will be posted on D2L.**

**Grading system:**

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>. These are the grade ranges and specific numeric values I assign to letter grades on D2L. Any individual assignment grade is converted to the mid-point value of the grade range and then weighted accordingly. Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, I will use this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, creativity and originality.

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

**Important information:**

- Check D2L for participation requirements and other assignments, and be familiar with these early in the term, so that you can talk to me in person if you have questions or concerns. Participation requires attentiveness to the course in all of its facets, including group work, and engagement with what is going on in class. As this is an intensive course, being "absent" is significant. Be sure to keep in touch with me if you run

into difficulties at all (this, too, is an element of participation). Online participation, especially navigating D2L, discussions, and interactions with other class members counts for at least half of the participation grade, more if you are unable to attend classes. You will document your work inside and outside of class anyway (research, work with others, reading, viewing etc.) in detail in your learning log. This assignment helps a great deal in self-assessment of participation.

- *You may use computers, tablets, phones, etc. in class for the purpose of course research, film viewing, etc. I will at times ask you to put all electronics away. Please let me know if you need to have your device on for any reason at such times.*
  - The costs for this course will be associated with the viewing of films and other media.
  - Our class starts at the lunch hour: please ensure you have had something to eat, or bring adequate sustenance with you to class. We will normally have a very short break.
  - *Please e-mail me through D2L or be sure to use "INDG399" in your subject line. If you don't use your ucalgary.ca address I may not get your e-mail. I do not usually respond immediately, and rarely over the weekend. However, if you have not heard from me within 24hrs (except on weekends), do send me a follow-up email.*
  - Most assignments will be submitted through the D2L dropbox. The only exception to this is for work that absolutely cannot be formatted electronically. These assignments should be submitted to me directly at my office or to SS 756 in an emergency (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 (anything that can go in the dropbox should be submitted electronically). **Your work should no longer be submitted to the 1st floor, SS 102.**
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## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

*Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.*

**Absence From a Mid-term Examination:**

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons 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 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. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

**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/](http://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>.

**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-reg.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-reg.html).

**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](http://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](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://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

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca](mailto:ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

#### **Campus Mental Health Resources:**

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

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

#### **Facebook Group for Indigenous Studies Program**

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

#### **Writing Symbols Lodge (Native Centre) Website**

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

#### **INDG Program Website**

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