



Indigenous Studies 3L03: Independent learning
Independent Learning
Indigenous Ways of Knowing
McMaster University
Spring 2022
Instructor: Dawn Martin-Hill

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Office Hours: Monday 1:30-2:30

The objective of the course is to provide students with an overview of the current literature and issues related to Indigenous people's ways of knowing. Developing an Indigenous discourse and framework includes understanding the core values Indigenous people hold common and the distinct diversity of their belief systems. *"Decolonizing Education", is a reminder of the way Indigenous peoples everywhere experienced what Kincheloe and Steinberg (1999, p. 82) refer to as subjugated knowledges. These are the excluded, silenced, or marginalized histories, memories and experiences of sub-ordinated populations.* Part of the solution to revitalizing subjugated knowledges is through critical pedagogy. A pedagogy that calls for learners to become active participants in the reconstruction and transformation of their own central world views and knowledges (Marie Battiste). Indigenous people's knowledge construction emerges from origin stories, cosmology and relationships to the natural environment.

The class will facilitate bi-weekly discussion on learning practices to explore contemporary Indigenous issues that are embedded in Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing. Exploring resistance to environmental degradation, resistance to colonial processes and cultural genocide through: Indigenizing education, representation, health and wellness. Three questions related to wellness the students will explore are: How can Indigenous ways of knowing improve water, land, health, and wellness? What is the relationship between Indigenous health and environmental health? Are recent resistance movements expressed through arts a tool for decolonization? How can you story research so it is meaningful and a useful tool for communities, organizations or NGO's?

The holistic approach in exploring Indigenous ways of knowing that shape, politics and economics playing out in current conflict and social issues (see Cindy Blackstock).

What are the most U.N. recent decision against Canada about? What has the TRC or MMIW Report changed for Indigenous people? Is FN access to clean water implications in structural racism? Sterilization of Indigenous women still happening in Canada, why and what are implications for Child welfare apprehensions of their children in the broader context of ethnocide and genocide? Ask the nigg questions and focus on a few case studies to develop a thesis that your interested in pursuing for graduate school.

Your research project will require examining the stated topics exploring contemporary realities of Indigenous people's advocacy to reclaim ancient wisdoms informing contemporary positions on a myriad of issues. Your project will include 'applied' research, doing research for an Indigenous groups, organization or facility. It could be providing a resource handbook, annotated bibliography, language material, mapping with Ohneganos, developing a grant or proposal for an organization. You will build your own reading list to accompany your interests with a minimum 1 academic texts and 6 journal articles or 11 journal articles.

Classes consist of self-directed learning; 1st) building your reading list through identifying your topic of research. Class will consist of several seminars, Indigenous film, social media, digital stories, guest lectures by community researchers, together providing primary information to discuss or explore experiential activities.

Open inquiry will be encouraged as a means of sharing an understanding of the Indigenous human experiences and ways of knowing. The goal of the course is to learn beyond your literature review by focusing on a real world problem / solutions which is often outside of the classroom. You are expected to be somewhat independent in your research; you can join an existing research group activities and or through engaging in participatory research such as hands on dcolonial story mapping with existing community research, or pursue archival researches and or organizing data, skills that put theory into practice.

Required Text: *Decolonizing Education: Nourishing the Learning Spirit, Battiste, Marie. (2013).* Saskatoon, Canada: Purich Publishing. 224 pp. ISBN 9781895830774.

Required Reading:

<http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Summary-First-Peoples-Second-Class-Treatment-Final.pdf>

Global Witness (2021) *Defending Tomorrow: The climate crisis and threats against land and environmental defenders.* Open Source.

International Labour Office. (2017). *Indigenous peoples and climate change: From victims to change agents through decent work*. Open Source.

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/indigenoustribal/WCMS_551189/lang--en/index.htm

Max Liboiron. (2021). *Pollution Is Colonialism*. Duke University Press.

<https://doi.org/10.1215/9781478021445>

Patrick Wolfe (2006) Settler colonialism and the elimination of the native, *Journal of Genocide Research*, 8:4, 387-409, DOI: 10.1080/14623520601056240 To link to this article:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14623520601056240>

Evaluation:

Research Project	40%
Participation	10-%
Student reading list	10%
Presentation	15%
Final product	25%

Week 1: May 4 Hune Introduction to Indigenous Ways of knowing health and wellness - overview

Week 2: May 9 / 11 Defining Indigenous Knowledge - applying ways of knowing

Class on campus

***Students Personal Reading List Submitted -.*

Week 3: May 23/25 on line

Mapping our Worldview, values, and Reality

Community researcher

Week 4: June 1 Class on campus – project outline submitted

Experiential - Planetarium

Week 5: June 6/8

Your Projects in focus – drafts

Week 6: June 17– youth rise event tbd

Presenting your research

June 28th

Submit final thesis project

Course Policies

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

2% per day will be deducted for all late assignments

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Medical documentation will be needed for all extensions on major assignments. Example, annotated bibliography, final paper, or final exam

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

University Policies, 2020 - 2021

Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at:

<https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Authenticity/Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. Avenue to Learn, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

Course with an Online Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn, LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the *Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities* (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make

arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's *Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities* policy.

Requests for Relief for missed Academic term work

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous, or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office ***normally within 10 working days*** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, Avenue to Learn and/or McMaster email.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy

protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.