



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**First Nations Studies 2218F / ANTHRO 2218F**  
**Contemporary First Nations Issues in Canada**  
**Fall 2016**

**Instructor: Darren Dokis**

Office Hours: Before class, or by appointment

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***Course Description:***

This course will explore a variety of contemporary topics of concern for First Nations peoples in Canada from common, media, and Indigenous perspectives. In exploring these topics, students will investigate the history behind these “issues” in order to be able to place them in context. Students will form a greater understanding of these topics by examining how discussions regarding these topics are framed both in academia and the popular media and will critically examine and challenge their own and common perceptions, assumptions, and mis/representations of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Topics will include politics, environment, health, identity, justice, development, social issues, and Indigenous rights.

***Prerequisite(s):***

Any first year Arts or Social Science 1.0 or 0.5 Essay course

***Antirequisite(s):***

Anthropology/First Nations Studies 2218F/G

***Learning Outcomes:***

Students will be exposed to multiple perspectives concerning Indigenous issues and learn how to critically engage these perspectives. Indigenous worldviews will be explored, and students will develop culturally appropriate, ethical, and considerate understandings of these issues.

***Required Texts:***

Asch, Michael. *On Being Here to Stay: Treaties and Aboriginal Rights in Canada*. University of Toronto Press, 2014.

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. *Visions of the Heart: Issues Involving Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Oxford University Press, 2015

**Other readings in the schedule will be made available on OWL.**

**\*\*\*Short readings and news stories may be added throughout the year.\*\*\***

***Recommended Reading:***

Hill, Jane. *The Everyday Language of White Racism*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2008, assigned chapters will be available on OWL.

Miller, Robert J., et. al. *Discovering Indigenous Lands: The Doctrine of Discovery in the English Colonies*. Oxford University Press, New York, 2010.

***Method of Evaluation:***

Seminar Presentation	15%
Weekly Discussions	20%
Reflection Paper	15%
Research Essay	25%
Final Exam	15%
Participation	10%

***Assignments:***

**Seminar Presentation or Debate (Oral 10% Written 5%)**

Working in groups of four, students will prepare a 20 minute presentation providing context around a news story posted on OWL. Two groups will present each week. Schedule/topics will be chosen the first week of classes. Students will provide a (very) brief summary of the issue (1-2 minutes), the history behind the story, accuracy of the article, stereotypes and underlying assumptions, and the biases/agenda of the author(s)/organization.

The two groups presenting may decide to hold a debate, each arguing one side of the issue, instead of having separate presentations.

The week after presenting, each group will submit a written report summarizing their presentation/debate (include a bibliography).

**Weekly Discussions (20%)**

Each week students will engage in discussion regarding an article/topic posted to OWL. Responses must be posted to OWL prior to class each week; late or emailed responses will not be accepted. Discussion must be respectful. Students must cite any external sources. Students will respond to a minimum of 8 discussions (8 \* 2.5%).

**Reflection Paper (15%) – Due October 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Students will write a short (5-7) page paper reflecting on their sites of privilege and disadvantage.

## **Research Essay (25%) - Due November 16**

Students will choose a topic relevant to the course and examine the bias, perceptions, assumptions, and mis/representations related to that topic and their effect on Indigenous peoples as well as their effect on Indigenous/settler relations. Papers are to be 10 pages, 1 inch margins, 12 point Arial or Times New Roman. Students must cite a minimum of 5 sources, 3 of those outside of the course material. Proper citations/bibliography must be used.

### ***How To Contact Me:***

Email: [ddokis@uwo.ca](mailto:ddokis@uwo.ca)

### ***How to get important information:***

Special announcements, lecture summaries, the course syllabus, handouts, links to important websites, and other important information will be posted on OWL. Please check OWL frequently to keep up to date.

### ***Email Responses:***

Students should expect that responses to emails could take up to 2 to 3 days. Do not expect an immediate response. Emails will be processed in a timely matter, but do not expect that if you send an email at 11:30pm you will get an immediate response that day or even the next day.

### ***Important Policies:***

The syllabus is subject to changes in order to facilitate corrections, clarification, and the inclusion of guest speakers.

You must follow all assignment instructions and codes of the university handbook (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>).

### ***Policies for Assignment Deadlines:***

Late penalties will be calculated as a loss of 2% (of the assignment's total value) per day. End date for all "late" assignments is the final exam. No assignments will be accepted after this date and will receive the mark of 0 or fail. Note that if you are late in handing in an assignment, it is your responsibility to ensure that the instructor receives it. Remember to keep an electronic and printed copy of your assignment. Further, keep copies of any emails sent or received pertaining to discussions about the assignment.

### ***Assignments and Essays***

**Title pages** must include your name, title of assignment/essay, student number, course and section number, due date, and instructor's name. All assignments must be **submitted typed and double spaced with 1" margins**. The assignment must be in **12 point Times New Roman or Arial font**.

All citations and bibliography must conform to Chicago Style, MLA, or AAA citation method (need to be consistent with one style). **Essentially all citations must include author's name, date, and page reference(s)**. While some newer revisions of citation styles do not require page numbers, for this course, **you are required to provide page numbers in your citations**.

Research with living people (interviews for research assignments) requires a lengthy process of approval through the Western Research Ethics Board. As a result, students are not permitted to conduct any interviews, formal, or informal, as part of your research.

Be sure to proofread your work! Do not rely on computer spell – or grammar-checking programs which do not correct or indicate all mistakes. If possible, get a friend or tutor to proofread your work. Grammatical structure and spelling are important considerations when grading papers. Poor spelling and grammar will negatively impact your assignment/essay.

### ***A Note on Plagiarism:***

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

### ***Plagiarism Checking:***

Students may be required to submit their assignments to turnitin.com on the class WebCT website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

### ***Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class: (“clickers”, if used)***

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

### ***Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness***

Western’s policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

### ***Accessibility Options:***

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 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website: [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***Scholastic Offences:***

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### ***Mental Health:***

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western ([http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

## ***Course Schedule and Readings***

### **Week 1 – Introduction (*September 14*)**

### **Week 2 (*September 21*)**

Hill, Jane. Chapter 1, The Persistence of White Racism pages 1-30.

### **Week 3 (*September 28*)**

Hill, Jane. Chapter 3, The Social Life of Slurs, pages 49-87.

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 2, pages 21-50.

### **Week 4 *Presentations Groups 1 & 2 (October 5)***

Miller, Robert J. Chapter 4, The Doctrine of Discovery in Canada, pages 89-125

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 3, pages 51-79.

### **Week 5 *Presentations Groups 3 & 4 (October 12) \*\*\*Reflection Paper Due!\*\*\****

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 4, pages 80-98.

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 5, pages 99-126.

### **Week 6 *Presentations Groups 5 & 6 (October 19)***

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 6, pages 127-151.

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 7, pages 152-178.

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 8, pages 179-208.

### **Week 7 *Presentations Groups 7 & 8 (October 26)***

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 9, pages 209-240.

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 10, pages 241-262.

### **Week 8 *Presentations Groups 9 & 10 (November 2)***

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 11, pages 263-290.

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 12, pages 291-318.

### **Week 9 (*November 9*)**

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 13, pages 319-350.

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 14, pages 351-373.

Long, David and Dickason, Olive Patricia. Chapter 15, pages 374-388.

### **Week 10 \*\*\**Final Essay Due!\*\*\* (November 16)***

Asch, Michael. Chapter 1, Overview, pages 3-9.

Asch, Michael. Chapter 2, Aboriginal Rights and the Canadian Constitution, pages 10-33.

Asch, Michael. Chapter 3, Aboriginal Rights and Temporal Priority, pages 34-58.

### **Week 11 (*November 23*)**

Asch, Michael. Chapter 4, Aboriginal Rights and Self-Determination, pages 59-72.  
Asch, Michael. Chapter 5, Aboriginal Rights and Temporal Priority, pages 73-99.

**Week 12 (November 30)**

Asch, Michael. Chapter 6, Treaties and Coexistence, pages 100-115.  
Asch, Michael. Chapter 7, Treaties and Sharing, pages 116-133.

**Week 13 (December 7)**

Asch, Michael. Chapter 8, Spirit and Intent, pages 134-151.  
Asch, Michael. Chapter 9, Setting the Record Straight, pages 152-165.