

Introduction to Indigenous Anthropology 2017  
Anthropology 234:20 Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:45-5:00 NH246

Instructor: L. Jane McMillan, PhD

Office Hours: Thursdays from 12:00 – 3:00 or By appointment

Office Location: J Bruce Brown 306

Office Phone: 902.867.5021

Email: [ljmcmill@stfx.ca](mailto:ljmcmill@stfx.ca)

Course Description:

The diversity and complexity of contemporary cultural, political and legal Indigenous issues are explored using anthropological methods and theories. Beginning with the historical antecedents of colonial relations and leading to contemporary ethnography, this course assesses the impacts of state policies and legislation on Indigenous treaty rights and livelihoods today. Students will study engaged anthropology and the relationships between the State and Indigenous peoples in areas of Indigenous rights, culture, law, governance, politics, environment, media, social development, gender, and health, and examine potential pathways and strategies toward reconciliation and equity. Special attention will be paid to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Course Format:

This is an introductory survey course consisting of assigned readings, lectures, in class writing activities, tests, films, guest speakers, group discussions, and presentations. Students are required to write mid term and final exams and submit written assignments. Written assignments are to be **original works only**, not assignments from other classes. Regular attendance, preparedness, punctuality and full participation are essential to the successful completion of this course. *All assignments are due in class. Late assignments will not be accepted.*

Academic Honesty: This course adheres to the University Policy on Academic Integrity.

[http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrars\\_office/sites/sites.stfx.ca/registrars\\_office/files/academic-integrity-document.pdf](http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrars_office/sites/sites.stfx.ca/registrars_office/files/academic-integrity-document.pdf)

<http://library.acadiau.ca/sites/default/files/library/tutorials/plagiarism/>

**Required Texts**

Lisa Monchalin, *The Colonial Problem: An Indigenous Perspective on Crime and Injustice in Canada*

2016 Toronto: University of Toronto Press

Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: **Volume 1: Summary**. 2015 Toronto: Lorimer.

[http://www.myrobust.com/websites/trcinstitution/File/Reports/Executive\\_Summary\\_English\\_Web.pdf](http://www.myrobust.com/websites/trcinstitution/File/Reports/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf)

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada **Volume 6 “Canada’s Residential Schools: Reconciliation”** 2015 Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press.  
[http://www.myrobust.com/websites/trcinstitution/File/Reports/Volume\\_6\\_Reconciliation\\_English\\_Web.pdf](http://www.myrobust.com/websites/trcinstitution/File/Reports/Volume_6_Reconciliation_English_Web.pdf)

United Nations  
2008 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf)

### **Suggested Readings**

1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. *Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*. Vols. 1-5. Ottawa. (RCAP)  
[http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20071115053257/http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/sg/sgmm\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20071115053257/http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/sg/sgmm_e.html)

Native Women’s Association of Canada  
2015 Fact Sheet: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls  
[http://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Fact\\_Sheet\\_Missing\\_and\\_Murdered\\_Aboriginal\\_Women\\_and\\_Girls.pdf](http://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Fact_Sheet_Missing_and_Murdered_Aboriginal_Women_and_Girls.pdf)

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Final Report  
<http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=905>

Visit the Anthropology Department’s website Writing and Presentation guide  
[http://sites.stfx.ca/anthropology/writing\\_and\\_presentation\\_guide](http://sites.stfx.ca/anthropology/writing_and_presentation_guide)

### **Media Alerts:**

Aboriginal Peoples Television Network <http://aptn.ca/>

Google Alerts: Aboriginal News

CBC <http://www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal>

## **Reading and Lecture Schedule:**

January 5: Welcome and Introductions – Life Before Settlers & TRC Introduction and the Top 5 Indigenous Newsmakers of 2016

January 10: Principles of Truth and Reconciliation (TRC Report volume 6 “Reconciliation” - Introduction online) **Read** the 94 Calls to Action

January 12: The Challenges of Reconciliation (TRC Report volume 6 “Reconciliation” – Chapter 1 online)

January 17: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 1 Introduction

January 19: Read the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (online). Challenging the Stereotypes – in class exercises for reconciliation

January 24: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 2 Indigenous Perspectives

January 26: REDress Project – participant observation exercise

January 31: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 3 Indigenous Governance

February 2: Indigenous law: Truth, reconciliation, and access to justice (TRC Report Volume 6 “Reconciliation” Chapter 2 online)

February 7: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 4 Colonialism

February 9: **In class quiz** (30%)

February 14: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 5 Treaties and Rights

February 16: Independent study

February 28: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 6 Discriminatory Legislation

March 2: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 7 Residential Schools

March 7: From Apology to Action: Canada and the Churches (TRC Report Volume 6 “Reconciliation” – Chapter 3 online)

March 9: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 8 Crime and over-representation

March 14: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 9 Violence against Women

March 16: The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

March 21: **Position Paper Due in class.** The Colonial Problem – Chapter 10 Court Cases and Rights

March 23: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 11 Modern Agreements

March 28: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 12 Justice Systems

March 30: The Colonial Problem – Chapter 13 Moving Forward

April 4: What is Reconciliation?

April 6: Exam questions

April: Exam in the exam period

## **Assignments**

### **In -Class Presentations**

Student will work in groups or individually in class and be responsible for summarizing an assigned reading, or creating a performance, or leading a debate, and giving a brief (10 minute) presentation to the class. 10%

**Mid-Term quiz** (February 9)

This in class quiz will consist of two essay questions drawn from all materials covered in the first section of the term. A list of study questions will be distributed on February 7 in class. 30%

**Position Paper** (March 21)

Your position paper will include:

1. A short introduction and the historical context of the issue. A thesis statement identifying the main argument of your position (5 marks).
2. Your evaluation and analysis (provide the evidence that helped you to arrive at your thesis statement) using illustrations from 5 academic sources to support your point of view (10 marks).
3. Conclusion (succinct summary of your position and your assessment for the potential of reconciliation) (marks 5). 1000 words, double-spaced, 12-point font, Chicago style citation (Author – Date) and proper grammar. 20%

**Final Exam** (April 2016)

Set in the University final exam schedule, this exam will consist of short answer and or essay questions drawn from all materials covered throughout the term. A list of study questions will be distributed on April 6 in class. 40%

**Participation & Google Alert of the Day** (Everyday)

Participation means more than showing up for class, it also means taking an active role in leading discussion, posing questions, responding to questions, listening actively, respecting your colleagues, and of course reading the assigned material before class, and taking notes. It is highly recommended that you subscribe to Google Alerts – Aboriginal News (each day you will receive one email with a list of live links to news articles about Indigenous issues from across Canada and around the world. At the start of each class one or two students will be asked to provide a Google Alerts news update).

The pace of this class is significant. Avoid missing a class. If by necessity you are going to be absent from any class, I strongly recommend you contact me ahead of time by phone or email. Please do not hesitate to make appointments or to visit me during office hours.

*The order and content of this syllabus are subject to change.*

**Course Code of Conduct:**

We agree to: treat each other with respect; to allow each person equal time and opportunity to share their opinions without prejudice; to keep an open mind when listening to opinions that differ from our own and share our views without causing harm to others; to be on time and to be prepared.