

Introduction to Indigenous Anthropology 2018
Anthropology 234:20 Tuesdays 7:00-9:30 JBB 236

L. Jane McMillan, PhD

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:00-6:30 or anytime by appointment

To book an appointment email ljmcmill@stfx.ca

JBB 306

902.867.5021

Course Description:

The diversity and complexity of contemporary Indigenous cultural, political and legal 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 cultures, 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 critically examine potential pathways and strategies toward reconciliation, effective treaty relations and systemic change. Special attention will be paid to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Canada 150, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

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, submit written assignments and present reading summaries. 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.*

Required Texts:

Cannon, Martin and Lina Sunseri (eds). 2018 *Racism, Colonialism, and Indigeneity in Canada*. Second Edition. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Ladner, Kiera and Myra Tait (eds). 2017 *Surviving Canada: Indigenous Peoples Celebrate 150 Years of Betrayal*. Manitoba: ARP Books.

Additional readings will be assigned throughout the course.

Schedule of Readings, Lectures, Assignments and Other Good Stuff

Content and schedule are subject to change.

January 9 – All Our Relations: Introductions, course over view, big issues: racism, colonialism, reconciliation and treaty relationships – film Colonization Road (Cannon part 1 – forward -19)

January 16 – Identities: Popular Culture, Misrepresentations & Perceptions (Cannon part 2 + Surviving 9-35)

January 23 – Mi'kmaw scholar John R. Sylliboy lecture on 2 Spirit Identities Schwartz 156 7:00 (arrive early to get a seat). This is a participant observation assignment event; attendance is required (Cannon part 4 + Surviving 36-62)

January 30 – Colonization, Racialization, and Understanding Diversity (Cannon part 3 + Surviving 63-76) **Participant observation assignment due** (10%)

February 6 – Gendered Violence & National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (Cannon part 5 + Surviving 131-148)

February 13 – **Mid term quiz** (30%) in class. Red Dress Campaign week

February 20 – reading week: Truth & Reconciliation Commission and 94 Calls to Action – visit www.trc.ca for the documents

February 27 – Family, Residential Schools & Child Welfare (Cannon part 6 + Surviving 159-192)

March 6 – Indigenous Laws & Injustices (Cannon part 9 + Surviving 238-255)

March 13 – Indigenous Rights, Territory & Nationhood and UNDRIP (UNDRIP + Cannon part 7 + Surviving 440-463) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is available online

March 20 – Idle No More & Getting Woke (Cannon part 10 + Surviving 308-331) **Essay due** (15%)

March 27 – Health & Healing (Cannon part 11 + Surviving 261-273)

April 3 – Treaty Education, Resistance & Revitalization (Cannon part 12 + Surviving 351-371 and 414-435)

Assignments & Evaluation

1. Participant observation assignment (2-3 pages due **January 30** = 10%).
Participant observation is a cornerstone method in anthropology, it involves observing and participating in an event and taking very detailed notes of EVERYTHING that is going on around you to better understand what people do and why they do the things they do in a particular context, place and time. Attend John R Sylliboy's lecture on January 23 with the class (Schwartz 156 @ 7:00 – arrive early to get a seat). You will conduct a participant observation of a lecture on Indigenous 2 spirit identities. For your assignment A] set up the context (introductory paragraph saying what is happening and why?); B] describe in detail the presenter, the presentation, the audience, and the audience's reaction to what is presented; C] describe the location and your position in it (maybe draw a map). After the event is over take time to reflect and polish your notes with extra details; D] conclude with a paragraph on your reflections conducting this exercise and how you experienced the event. Submit your field notes (2-3 pages) in class **January 30**. Be prepared to compare and contrast your observations with your classmates.
2. Essay: What Will it Take for Canada to Become an Honourable Nation? (5 pages due **March 20** = 15%)
Read Kiera Ladner's article "150 Years and Waiting: Will Canada Become an Honourable Nation?" (Surviving 398-413) Following the format of the Anthropology Department Essay Style Guide with Chicago manual (author date) citation and using at least 4 other academic sources in addition to Ladner's article, write a maximum 5 page essay (double spaced, 12 point font, pages numbered) answering the question, What Will it Take for Canada to Become an Honourable Nation? Include a bibliography (this is an extra page not included in the 5 pages of text).
3. Presentations of readings. Each student will be assigned a reading from *Surviving Canada* and will present their summary and interpretation of the reading to the class; students are encouraged to pose questions for discussion. (10%) If you are uncertain of your assignment ask the professor.
4. Exams. There are two tests in this course. The mid term will take place in class on February 13. It is worth 30% and will consist of essay questions related to materials covered in class up to that date. The final exam will take place during the exam period in April 11-24. It is worth 30% and will

- consist of essay questions related to materials covered throughout the whole course.
5. Participation – students who attend every class, are prepared and actively engage respectfully in the work of the class are eligible for 5%.

Follow the StFX Anthropology Department Academic Essay Guide
http://stfx.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=3538355

Please follow the rules of academic honesty; do not plagiarize and cite work correctly. Familiarize yourself with StFX's Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures and seek assistance from the library or your professor if you have questions.

https://sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/sites/sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/files/Academic%20Integrity-Mar_2015_0.pdf

The content of this course may be challenging and controversial. Please create an environment that fosters a climate of mutual trust and encourages the free exchange of diverse ideas. If you need assistance participating in this course please contact the professor.

Suggested reading:

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

Suggested viewing:

<http://aptn.ca>

Suggested listening:

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved>