

Anthropology 234: Introduction to Indigenous Studies

This course meets in Mi'kma'ki the territory of the Mi'kmaw Nation

Instructor: Terry Beaulieu

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Office: JBB 335H

Office Hours: Mon and Tue: 1:00-2:15 PM, Wed and Thur: 10:00-11:45 AM

Room: MULH 3034

Times: Tue: 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM, Fri: 1:00-2:15 PM

Prerequisite(s): ANTH 110 or ANTH 111/112 or permission of the instructor

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 ethnography on the impacts of state policies and legislation on Indigenous treaty rights and livelihoods today. Students will study engaged anthropology on the relationship between the State and Indigenous people in areas of Indigenous rights, law, governance, the environment, social development, gender and health, as ways to create the pathways to reconciliation and equality.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Display an increased understanding of the impacts of colonialism on Indigenous issues.
2. Identify varying representations of the past and begin to understand the impacts those representations have on the present.
3. Understand connections between historical experiences and modern Indigenous issues and be able to critically engage with those connections.
4. Recognize the diversity and complexity of Indigenous Peoples across Canada, while simultaneously being able to identify common threads of the Indigenous experience that link Indigenous Peoples to modern colonial issues.

Required Text:

There are no required textbooks for this course. There are, however, assigned weekly readings that are to be completed prior to each week's class. Assigned readings will be posted to Moodle.

There are also several suggested resources with which students are encouraged to familiarise themselves, including:

Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>

Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Summary: Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future. Winnipeg: Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

<http://nctr.ca/reports.php>

Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/royal-commission-aboriginal-peoples/Pages/final-report.aspx>

Evaluation:

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Presentation Proposal	5%	October 8
Midterm Exam	30%	October 11
Film Review	20%	November 12
Presentation	15%	Nov 26/29
Final Exam	30%	TBA

The penalty for late work is 1% per day. Extensions will only be granted under special circumstances, and with the approval of the instructor.

The midterm exam will be an in-class exam held during normal class time. The exam format may include multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Question will cover topics covered to that point in the course, and may be drawn from readings, lectures, films, and other materials presented to that point.

The final exam will be an in-person exam scheduled by the Registrar and will occur during the normal examination period. It will be of a similar format to the midterm exam and will cover topics covered from the midterm exam to the end of the course. Questions may be drawn from readings, lectures, films, class presentations, and other materials presented to the class.

Use of course readings (or other printed materials), notes, computers, cellphones, or other electronic devices is not allowed during the writing of the midterm or final exams. Further information regarding exam formats and subjects covered will be provided in class.

Class Schedule:

Please note: the following is a tentative schedule. Time constraints or unforeseen circumstances may mean some topics on the outline may be moved or not covered, or that others may be added.

Week 1: (Sep 6) Introduction
No assigned reading.

Week 2: (Sep 10) Terminology
Reading – Younging 2018. “Terminology”, in *Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guide for Writing by and About Indigenous Peoples*, pp. 50-72.

(Sep 13) Perspectives, Positionality, and History
Reading - McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004. “Anthropological Research and Aboriginal People”, in *First Peoples in Canada*, pp. 1-24.

Week 3: (Sep 17): Film – Reel Injun (Introduction)

No assigned reading.

(Sep 20) Film – Reel Injun (Conclusion and discussion)

No assigned reading.

Week 4: (Sep 24) Identity

Reading – Leroux 2019. “Introduction: Self-Indigenization in the Twenty-First Century”, in *Distorted Descent*, pp. 1-38.

Reading – Beaulieu 2024. “(Re)Producing Relations: Perspectives on Métis Kinship and Identity”, *Rooted: Kinship*, 3(1): 48-53.

(Sep 27) The Indian Act

Reading – Lawrence and Cidro 2016. “Survivance, Identity, and the Indian Act”, in *Aboriginal History: A Reader*, Second Edition, pp. 215-242. Burnett and Read eds.

Week 5: (Oct 1, 4) The Indian Act/Residential Schools

Reading – Frideres 2020. “Indigenous Residential Schools: Compensation, Apologies, and Truth and Reconciliation”, in *Indigenous Peoples in the Twenty-First Century*, Third Edition, pp. 60-82.

Week 6: (Oct 8) Review

Presentation Proposal due

(Oct 11) **Midterm Exam**

Week 7: (Oct 15, 18) *Study Break, no classes!*

Week 8: (Oct 22, 25) Métis

Reading – Andersen 2014. “Introduction”, in ‘Metis’: Race, Recognition, and the Struggle for Indigenous Peoplehood, pp. 3-25.

Week 9: (Oct 29, Nov 1) Inuit Relocation

Reading – Vowel 2016. “Human Flagpoles: Inuit Relocation”, in *Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis & Inuit Issues in Canada*, pp. 191-205.

Film – *Martha of the North*

Week 10: (Nov 5, 8) The Sixties Scoop

Reading – Spears 2017. “Strong Spirit, Fractured Identity: an Ojibway Adoptee’s Journey to Wholeness”, in *Racism, Colonialism, and Indigeneity in Canada: A Reader*, Second Edition. Cannon and Sunseri eds.

Week 11: (Nov 12) The Constitution, Courts, and the Justice System

Reading – Monchalin and Marques 2020. “Terminating Canada’s Failed System of Injustice: Unmasking Colonialism, Redefining Relationships, and Re-establishing Balance”, in *Visions of the Heart: Issues Involving Indigenous Peoples in Canada*, Fifth Edition, pp. 165-181. Starblanket et al eds.

Film Review due

(Nov15) Women’s Movements

Reading – Carter et al 2016. “Indigenous Women, Strength, and Resilience”, in *Aboriginal History: A Reader*, Second Edition, pp. 338-377. Burnett and Read eds.

Week 12: (Nov 19) Women's Movements

(Nov 22) Health and Healthcare/Urban Indigenous Issues

Reading - Allan and Smylie 2017. "First Peoples, Second Class Treatment: The Role of Racism in Health and Well-being of Indigenous Peoples in Canada", in Racism, Colonialism, and Indigeneity in Canada a Reader. Cannon and Sunseri eds.

Week 13: (Nov 26, 29) Presentations

No Assigned Reading

Week 14: (Dec 3) *No Class!*

(Dec 6) Review

No Assigned Reading

Assignments: Explanations and Guidelines

Film Review: A critical film review of one of the selected movies must be submitted to the instructor by November 12. The selected film MUST be one of the films assigned for the purposes of this exercise and NOT one of the films viewed in class. The review should be an exploration of the chosen movie within the context of the course and the materials covered in the course. It is not meant to be a review in the style of a popular movie critic review that comments on elements such as the quality of the acting and cinematography, but rather should be an examination of the film that unpacks the movie to examine its approach and relevance to topics covered in class.

Presentation Proposal: A short (maximum one page) outline identifying both a topic and a method of presentation (see below) must be submitted to the instructor by October 8. The proposal will be marked out of 5.

Presentation: A presentation exploring one of the topics covered during the semester, or in the readings, in greater detail must be made to the class (see class schedule). The presentation may take one of many formats (e.g. PowerPoint presentation, academic style poster, short video, oral presentation, etc.) as long as the presentation time does not exceed 5 minutes in length. The presentation will be marked out of 15 based primarily upon the quality of the content and analysis.

Further details on the requirements of the Film Review and Presentation will be provided in class.

Important Dates:

September 4 – First day of classes

September 13 – Last day to change first-term or full-year courses

September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no classes)

October 14-18 – Fall Study Break (no classes)

October 30 – Last day to drop first-term three-credit courses

December 6 – Last day of classes for first term

December 9-18 – First term final exam period

**Other Information:
Class Participation.**

To get the most out of your university experience you should come prepared to all classes. Readings are intended to be read *prior* to class, and you should be ready to actively engage in the classroom environment by asking questions, exchanging ideas, and participating in class discussions. Please be mindful that materials covered in this class can sometimes be challenging or disturbing. While a free exchange of ideas is encouraged, class discussions must remain respectful. If you need assistance participating in the course, do not hesitate to contact the instructor.

Intellectual Property and Copyright Information.

The course materials are designed for use in Anthropology 234 at St FX University and are the property of the instructor, unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Copying this material for distribution, online posting, or selling of this material to third parties without permission is subject to Canadian Copyright Law and is strictly prohibited. Visit the [StFX copyright guide](#) for more information.

Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct

Please ensure that you are aware of the policy on [Academic Integrity](#). Please make note of the change in wording of the section on 'Cheating' passed by Senate this year. Section 3.8.2b (v) now reads "Possession of unauthorized aids or assistance". This means that the students do not need to be caught USING a device like a cell phone or smart watch (for example) during a test or exam to be in violation of the policy. Simply having the unauthorized device on your person during the test or exam is a violation of the policy. The use of artificial intelligence aids - such as ChatGPT - are also expressly prohibited for all graded assignments and exams in this course..

Equitable Learning.

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. Instructors and students are invited to work together to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity. Please feel free to talk with your course instructor about your questions or concerns about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community in general. Should students have additional questions, they are encouraged to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the [Human Rights and Equity Team](#).

Accommodation

If you have a disability and would like to request accommodations, please contact the instructor during the first week of the semester so that your accommodations may be provided in a timely manner. Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) provides assistance in determining and facilitating appropriate accommodations for students with verified disabilities. The [Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning](#) welcomes students with documented permanent disabilities and offers them a student-centered program of support. Located in Room 108 of the Angus L. Macdonald Library, new and returning students meet with program staff to discuss options for support. Deadline for registering with the Centre is two weeks prior to the end of classes each semester and 3 Business Days' notice is required for booking all accommodated tests and exams.

Phone 902.867.5349

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Course Drop Date.

Students may drop a course, online in Banner, on or before October 30, 2024. After this date students are not permitted to drop courses without permission from their Dean. A course discontinued but not officially dropped is treated as a failure and will affect the student's end-of-year average. Simply informing the professor, or merely ceasing to attend class, is not sufficient. Refer to sec. 3.1 in the Academic Calendar for policies regarding course drops.

Other Resources

As part of a successful undergraduate experience at St. Francis Xavier University, we encourage you to make your health and wellness a priority. StFX provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership to the [StFX Campus Recreation Centre](#) as part of their registration fees. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the [Department of Music web page](#), [The StFX Art Gallery](#), [Theatre Antigonish](#), [Antigonight](#), [Town of Antigonish Recreation](#), [County of Antigonish Recreation](#), and [Keppoch Mountain](#) for various events.