

Graduate Liberal Studies Program- Spring 2022

LS 810: Organizing Social Realities: Home and Native Land

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Instructor: Eldon Yellowhorn, SFU Indigenous Studies -

Mondays: 6:30 - 9:20 pm - Hybrid

Course Description

Exploring the historical and contemporary manifestations of issues that define the relationship between Indigenous people and the global community will be the focus of this course. It will focus on their involvement in the political, social, and legal structures of Canada, and their dialogues with Canadians. Discussions and lectures will focus on the challenges they encounter within an entrenched colonial system with a history of ecological imperialism, current affairs concerning their struggle for justice in the face of environmental catastrophes, and the trends that influence the evolution of their modern communities. In-class discussions will interrogate the impact of technology in altering the cultural landscapes that they hold sacred, examine the spiritual and intellectual conditions directing activists, and the possible futures of Indigenous people in the nation-state as we move toward Canada 200.

Course Material

Course material will include selected readings and audio-visual material.

- 1) Film "You are on Indian land" by Michael Kanentekeron Mitchell available on-line through WAC Bennett Library
- 2) Article: [Ironic Confrontation as a Mode of Resistance: The Homeland Security T-Shirt at the Dakota Access Pipeline Protests](#) by Cortney Smith (2019) *American Indian Quarterly*: 43(3):339–364.
- 3) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) available on-line by the United Nations website
- 4) Article: [Giving Back the "Queen Charlotte Islands": The Politics of Names and Naming between Canada and the Haida Nation](#) (2020) By Joseph Weiss in *Native American and Indigenous Studies* 7(1): 62–86.
- 5) Article: ["The impact of climate change on indigenous people – the implications for the cultural, spiritual, economic and legal rights of indigenous people"](#) by Jay Williams (2012) *International Journal of Human Rights* 16(4): 648–688.

Assignments

Five reviews will be short commentaries (250–500 words) based on the topics in the course materials (5x10% = 50%).

Each student will compose a research report on a topic germane to this course that will be 2,000–2,500 words in length (40%)

10% will be for course participation

Weekly Topic Guide

January 10 – Introduction to course; Looking back at residential schools and the making of modern indigenous identity. (In Class)

January 17 – The Indian Act and Indian status in modern Canada; Inuit become Indians; Métis identity in the 19th & 20th centuries; Whatever became of citizens plus?; the White Paper and the Constitution Act (1982) - aboriginal peoples include Indians, Inuit, and Métis; indigeneity at Canada 150 (Film commentary) (In Class)

January 24 – Aboriginal people confront Canada after 1967; Regina v. Drybones, human rights in Canadian law; gender relations discourse and Bill C-31. (Reading #2) (In Class)

January 31 – Nation-states, traditional territories, and lands reserved for Indians; Interrogating nested identities, sub-national entities, and imagined communities of first nations. (On-Line)

February 7 – In All Fairness; Nunavut and the unfinished business of land claims; Métis colonies (On-Line)

February 14 – Resistance is futile! Emergence, rise and demise of radical activism; Indigenous nationalism in Canada; Finding purpose in self-determination; Emergence of practical activism, direct action, and Idle No More. (On-Line)

February 28 – Powwows, Traditional arts & popular culture in Indian Country (In Class) (Reading #3 UNDRIP)

March 7 – Resistance is fertile! Delga Muukwa, Alexander Mackenzie, aboriginal rights, and the Tsihquotin decision. (In class)

March 14 – Decolonization? Aboriginal rights in the Anglosphere of nations; Colonizing Canada & the phenomenon of urban migration. (Reading #4) (In-Class)

March 21 –Cognitive anthropology and magic, science, and religion; Navigating the nexus between Indigenous knowledge and western science. (On-Line)

March 28 – Indigenous knowledge, proprietary interests, and intellectual property; Food Sovereignty, Biopiracy and Pharming indigenous knowledge (On-Line)

April 4 – Pipelines or pipe dreams? Ecological imperialism, modern environmentalism, and the rise of Indigenous knowledge (Reading #5) (In Class)

April 11 – The end of history?; the principle of mediocrity and averting human extinction;
Futurism and the evolving nature of indigenous knowledge. (In Class) (Research Essay Due)