

**INDIGST 1AA3/ARTSCI 1CC3: Introduction to Contemporary Indigenous Studies**  
**Winter 2020**  
**McMaster University**  
*Course Syllabus*

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**Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30 – 2:20pm (or by appt)**

PGCLL M21  
Mondays, 3:30 – 4:20  
Thursdays, 2:30 – 4:20

This course is an introduction to contemporary issues facing Indigenous peoples and revolving around political, legal, economic and social contexts. Specifically, it will be an exploration of the relationship between Indigenous peoples and Canadian society throughout the late 20th century to the present with a focus on issues as varied as the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, land claims, models of governance, education policy, child welfare, reconciliation, among other issues.

**Required Texts:**

Courseware, Introduction to Contemporary Indigenous Studies 1AA3, Winter 2020

Simpson, L. (2011). *Dancing on our turtle's back: Stories of Nishnaabeg re-creation, resurgence and a new emergence*. Arbeiter Ring Pub.

**Evaluation will be based on four criteria:**

1. Midterm Examination (30%): The **in-class exam** will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exam will cover lectures and assigned readings to date. **Thursday, February 13th, in-class.**
2. Critical Reflection Paper (25%): Each student will submit a critical reflection of the text, *Dancing on our Turtle's Back*. It will be due on **Thursday April 6th**. This reflection should be approximately six pages in length (Times New Roman, double-spaced, 12-point font).  
**For detailed information on how to write a critical reflection paper, please look under the "Critical Reflection Paper: Information and Rubric" section of the Content tab on Avenue to Learn.**
3. Reading Group Peer Evaluation (15%): Students will be organized into groups which will meet **on Mondays in-class** throughout the term to discuss significant topics and ideas found in the text, *Dancing on our Turtle's Back*. Students will grade each other's contributions to these discussions. A grading rubric and evaluation form can be found on A2L under "Reading Group Information". Peer evaluation forms should be filled out by **one member of the group, emailed to the Teaching Assistant, and cc'd to all group members by April 6th.**
4. Final Examination (30%): The final exam will be scheduled during the examination period in April. It will be similar in format to the midterm examination.

Lastly, students are expected to attend lectures, read the materials and be prepared to discuss themes, answer questions and demonstrate engagement with the readings.

**Summary:**

|                               |                                    |     |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|
| Midterm Exam                  | Thursday February 13 <sup>th</sup> | 30% |
| Critical Reflection Paper     | Tuesday April 6 <sup>th</sup>      | 25% |
| Reading Group Peer Evaluation | Wednesday April 4 <sup>th</sup>    | 15% |
| Final Exam                    | TBA                                | 30% |

**Reading Group Meeting Dates** (*all take place on a Monday*)**January 13<sup>th</sup>****January 27<sup>h</sup>****February 10<sup>th</sup>****March 2<sup>nd</sup>****March 9<sup>th</sup>****A2L ON-LINE ELEMENT:**

In this course we will be using A2L. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

**Indigenous Studies 1AA3 Introduction to Contemporary Indigenous**  
*Course Outline*

**Week One – January 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>: Identities, Myths & Stereotypes**

Assembly of First Nations, "AFN Fact Sheet- Misconceptions"

Little Bear, L., "Jagged World Views Colliding"

**Reading Group Instructions****Week Two - January 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>: RCAP & Justice**

Ponting, J. "Getting a Handle on Recommendations of the Royal Commission"

Monture-Angus, P., "Lessons in Decolonization: Aboriginal Overrepresentation"

Film: *Two Worlds Colliding***Week Three – January 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>: The Legacy of Residential Schools**

Kelly, F. "Confession of a Born Again Pagan" pp 11-42 (From Truth to Reconciliation)

**Group Meeting #1, Read Chapters 1 and 2****Week Four - January 27<sup>th</sup> and January 30<sup>th</sup>: Indigenous Women & Midterm Review**Executive Summary of the Final Report: National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls", [https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Executive\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Executive_Summary.pdf) READ:

pps: 9 - 38

**Midterm Review: January 30<sup>th</sup> in-class****Group Meeting #2, Read Chapters 3 and 4****Week Five – February 3<sup>rd</sup> and February 6<sup>th</sup>: FIELD TRIP**February 3<sup>rd</sup>: McMaster PlanetariumFebruary 6<sup>th</sup>: McMaster Planetarium

**Week Six – February 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>: MIDTERM**

Monday February 10<sup>th</sup>: **Reading Group Meeting #3**, *Read Chapter 5*

Thursday February 13<sup>th</sup>: **Midterm – IN-CLASS**

**Week Seven – February 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>: READING BREAK NO CLASSES**

**Week Eight – February 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>: Understanding Land & Title Research**

Asch, M., "Self-Government in the New Millennium"

McNeil, K., "The Meaning of Aboriginal Title"

*Film*

**Week Nine – March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>: "Education is our buffalo"**

Battiste, M., "Maintaining Aboriginal Identity in Modern Society"

AFN, "Indian Control of Indian Education"

[http://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/education/3.\\_2010\\_july\\_afn\\_first\\_nations\\_control\\_of\\_first\\_nations\\_education\\_final\\_eng.pdf](http://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/education/3._2010_july_afn_first_nations_control_of_first_nations_education_final_eng.pdf)

**Reading Group Meeting #4**, *Read Chapter 6*

**Week Ten – March 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>: Child Welfare**

Trocme, N. et al, "Pathways to Overrepresentation of Aboriginal Children in Canada's Child Welfare System"

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, "Gathering Strength: The Family" **\*\*Read 2.1 – 2.4\*\***

[http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20071211053441/http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/sg/si4\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20071211053441/http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/sg/si4_e.html)

**Reading Group Meeting #5**, *Read Chapters 7 and 8*

**Week Eleven – March 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>: Reclamation & Resistance Movements**

The Yellowhead Institute, "Land Back: A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper".

<https://redpaper.yellowheadinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/red-paper-report-final.pdf> READ:  
pps: 34 – 61.

*Film*

**Week Twelve – March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>: Reconciliation, Indigenization?**

Gaudry, A. & Lorenz, D. "Indigenization as inclusion, reconciliation, and decolonization: navigating the different visions for indigenizing the Canadian Academy"

*Guest Speaker*

**Week Thirteen – March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>: End of Term Social**

April 2<sup>nd</sup>: End of Term Social, CIBC Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of MUSC), 2:30pm – 4:30pm

**Week Fourteen – April 6<sup>th</sup>: Final Exam Review**

**Additional Sources:**

- [www.indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca](http://www.indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca)
- Indigenous Studies Library (located in Wilson Hall, 1811)

## **Late Policy**

Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day (including weekends) to a maximum of 30%. Failure to complete all assignments will result in a failing grade in the course.

## **Academic Integrity Statement**

*McMaster Policy on Academic Integrity:*

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity), located at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>. The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2) Improper collaboration in group work. 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## **Authenticity/Plagiarism Detection Statement**

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student-submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

## **MSAF Statement**

*McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):*

The University recognizes that students periodically require relief from academic work for medical or other personal situations. This academic regulation aims to manage these requests by taking into account the needs and obligations of students, instructors and administrators. It is the prerogative of the instructor of the course to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work in his/her course.

Any concerns regarding the granting of relief should be directed to the respective Faculty Office. Requests for relief should be made with a commitment to academic integrity in mind. Requests that deviate from this commitment will be handled under the Academic Integrity Policy and Student Code of Conduct, where appropriate.

In the event of an absence, students should review and follow the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.”

It is your responsibility to follow up with the instructor following the submission of a *McMaster Student Accommodation Form*.

**For Arts & Science students:** In the event of an absence, students should review and follow the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please consult the MSAF statement on our website (<https://artsci.mcmaster.ca/current-students/requests-2/>) and direct any questions or concerns to Shelley Anderson or Madeline Van Impe in the Arts & Science Program Office.

### **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities Statement**

*Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities:*

Students who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. SAS can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or email [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous, or Spiritual Observances**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

**For Arts & Science students:** Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous, or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office (i.e. to Shelley Anderson or Madeline Van Impe in the Arts & Science Program Office) normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### **Email Contact and Student Responsibility Statement**

*Please Note:*

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L, and/or McMaster email. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email and course websites regularly during the term and to note any changes. Announcements will be made in class and by using the course email distribution **list**.