



**INDIGST 1AA3/ARTSSCI 1CC3  
INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS STUDIES  
WINTER 2021 (2020/21)**

**Instructor:** Prof. Adrienne Xavier  
**Email:** [xavier@mcmaster.ca](mailto:xavier@mcmaster.ca)  
**Lecture:** Tuesday 1:30-2:20  
Thursday 12:30 – 2:20

**Office:** N/A  
**Office Hours:** Online, by appointment

**Course Description**

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.

**Course Objectives**

This course will expand the contextual discussion of Indigenous issues and knowledge. By the end students will have a broader understanding of Indigenous ideas, issues and culture in contemporary discussion.

**Required Materials and Texts**

Custom coursepack is available at the campus bookstore with the bulk of our required readings week to week.

“The Right to be Cold” by Sheila Watt-Cloutier

**Class Format**

Virtual meetings via Zoom, full schedule available on Avenue to Learn

**Course Evaluation**

Check Avenue to Learn for full Course Evaluation details



## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1: Identities, Myths & Stereotypes**

**Date(s) of meetings: January 12-14**

**Readings:** Assembly of First Nations, "AFN Fact Sheet- Misconceptions" Little Bear, L., "Jagged World Views Colliding"

### **Week 2: RCAP & Justice**

**Date(s) of meetings: January 19-21**

**Readings:** Ponting, J. "Getting a Handle on Recommendations of the Royal Commission" Monture-Angus, P., "Lessons in Decolonization: Aboriginal Overrepresentation" Film: Two Worlds Colliding

### **Week 3: The Legacy of Residential Schools**

**Date(s) of meetings: January 26-28**

**Readings:** Check Avenue to Learn

### **Week 4: Indigenous Women**

**Date(s) of meetings: February 2-4**

**Readings:** Check Avenue to Learn

### **Week 5: MIDTERM**

**Date(s) of meetings: February 9-11**

**Readings:** Check Avenue to Learn



**Week 6: Reading week**

**Date(s) of meetings: February 15-19**

**Week 7: Understanding Land & Title Research**

**Date(s) of meetings: February 23-25**

**Readings:** Check Avenue to Learn

**Week 8: "Education is our buffalo"**

**Date(s) of meetings: March 2-4**

**Readings:** Check Avenue to Learn

**Week 9: Child Welfare**

**Date(s) of meetings: March 9-11**

**Readings:** Check Avenue to Learn

**Week 10: Reclamation & Resistance Movements**

**Date(s) of meetings: March 16-18**

**Readings:** Check Avenue to Learn

**Week 11: Reconciliation, Indigenization?**

**Date(s) of meetings: March 23-25**

**Readings:** Check Avenue to Learn



**Week 12: Final book discussion**

**Date(s) of meetings: March 30-April 1**

**Readings:** Check Avenue to Learn

**Week 13: Review and Social**

**Date(s) of meetings: April 6-8**

**Readings:** Check Avenue to Learn

**Course Policies**

**Submission of Assignments**

Check Avenue to Learn for assignment submission details and for the late submission policy.

**Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

**SENATE-APPROVED ADVISORY STATEMENTS**

**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. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION**

**Some courses may** use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

**All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., online search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **COURSES WITH AN ONLINE ELEMENT**

**Some courses may** use online elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names 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 a course that uses online elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.



## **ONLINE PROCTORING**

**Some courses may** use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

## **CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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

## **REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK**

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students 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.

### **COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

### **EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES**

The University reserves the right to 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.

### **NOTES FOR ALL ARTS & SCIENCE COURSES**

1. Some of the statements above refer to a “Faculty Office”; please note that the Arts & Science Program Office serves in this capacity.
2. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email regularly. Announcements will be made in class, via A2L, and/or via the course email distribution list <d-as1CC3@mcmaster.ca>.