

INDIGST 1AA3/ARTSSCI 1CC3
CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS STUDIES
WINTER 2022 (2021/22)

Instructor: Dr. Adrienne Lickers Xavier

Email: xavier@mcmaster.ca

Lecture: Thursday 2:30-4:20 (PGCLL M21) Friday 2:30-3:20 (PGCLL M21)

Office: LRW 1018

Office Hours: Online, by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Rhiannon Muirhead: muirhear@mcmaster.ca

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Office Hours -Teaching Assistants: By appointment, please email.

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, MMIWG, 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

"The Right to be Cold" by Sheila Watt-Cloutier

"Indigenous Writes" by Chelsea Vowel

The texts: "Indigenous Writes" and "The Right to be Cold" can be found from the McMaster Campus Store here:

https://campusstore.mcmaster.ca/cgi-mcm/ws/txsub.pl?wsTERMG1=221&wsTERMDDESC1=Winter+2022&wsDEPTG1=INDIGST&wsDEPTDESC1=INDIGST+-+Indigenous+Studies&wsCOURSEG1=1AA3&wsSECTIONG1=DAY+C01&programG1=McMaster+Undergrad+and+Graduate&crit_cnt=1

Class Format; Virtual/In Person as allowed

Virtual meetings via Zoom till January 31st. The full schedule will be available on Avenue to Learn and updates will be announced as needed based on University guidance.

Course Evaluation - Overview

1. Reading group discussions** 25% (20/5),
 - 1a. Introduction post 5% in your reading group. Due by January 28 (week3) 1b. Discussions in A2L.(ongoing to end of term)
2. Reflections** 3x10=30% Due February 11, March 11, April 1
3. Critical Reflection-Book project** 20% Due April 12
4. Final 25% Due April 22**

****These will be discussed in the first week of class and are subject to change****

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1: Introductions and discussions ZOOM

Date(s) of meetings: January 13-14

Readings:

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

Week 2: Identities, stereotypes and histories. ZOOM

Date(s) of meetings: January 20-21

Readings:

Week 3: Stories through stars ZOOM-GUEST SPEAKER

Date(s) of meetings: January 27-28

We will have a guest speaker this week! The first hour of class we will have Dr. Robert Cockcroft as our guest.

Readings:https://mfnerc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/008_Buck.pdf

The Celestial Bear: The Six Nations' Night Sky

"That is how I heard the story, so I thought that is how you would hear it as well..." Join us for a fascinating show that blends local culture, history and modern-day astronomy that shares the Six Nations' sky lore and language through traditional indigenous night-sky stories. With narration and visuals by a live presentation and pre-recorded excerpts (in English and Cayuga), learn about the story of the bear and the brothers and how it is retold every year with the rotating patterns in the night sky. See the same stars with a completely different understanding and appreciation! This show was collaboratively-produced by members of the Six Nations, McMaster's Indigenous Studies Program, and the McCallion Planetarium.

Book Group: Watt-Cloutier. "The Right to be Cold" Introduction and An early childhood of Ice and Snow Introduction and Chapter 1.(pgs: xiii-22)

Notes: Introduction due in discussion posts by **January 28th**

Week 4: Communities, land and culture

Date(s) of meetings: January 27-28

Readings: Indigenous Writes: Part 1. The terminology of relationships p.5-22.
Abigail Echo-Hawk, "Decolonizing Data: Restoring Culture, Building Beauty"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbBi0zsa5EI>

The Legacy of Residential Schools

Date(s) of meetings: February 3-4

Readings: Kelly, F. "Confessions of a Born Again Pagan"

Book Group: Watt-Cloutier. "The Right to be Cold" From dog teams to Miniskirts and Rock'n' Roll Chapter 2.(pgs: 23-54)

Week 5:

Date(s) of meetings: February 10-11

Readings: Asch, M "Self-Government in the New Millennium"

Notes: First Reflection Due - February 11th, 2022

Week 6: Indigenous Women and wellness **Possible guest speaker**

Date(s): February 17-18

Readings: Battiste, M. "Maintaining Aboriginal Identity, Language, and Culture in Modern Society"

Book Group: Watt-Cloutier. "The Right to be Cold" A return homeChapter 3.(pgs: 55-97)

Week 7: Reading Week

Date(s) of meetings: February 24-25

NO CLASSES! ENJOY A BREAK

Week 8: Understanding Land & Title Research

Date(s) of meetings: March 3-4

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

Book Group: Watt-Cloutier. "The Right to be Cold" Finding our voice Chapter 4.(pgs: 98-131)

Week 9: "Education is our buffalo"

Date(s) of meetings: March 10-11

Readings:

Book Group: Watt-Cloutier. "The Right to be Cold" POPS and the Inuit journey Chapter 5.(pgs:132-184)

Notes: Second Reflection Due: March 11th, 2022

Week 10: Child Welfare

Date(s) of meetings: March 17-18

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

Book Group: Watt-Cloutier. "The Right to be Cold" The voices of the hunters

Chapter 6.(pgs:185-217)

Week 11: Reclamation & Resistance Movements

Date(s) of meetings: March 24-25

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

Book Group: Watt-Cloutier. "The Right to be Cold" The right to be cold

Chapter 7.(pgs: 218-259)

Week 12: Reconciliation, Indigenization?

Date(s) of meetings: March 31-April 1

Readings:

Book Group: Watt-Cloutier. "The Right to be Cold" Acclaim from outside, Peace from within Chapter 8.(pgs: 260-285)

Notes: **Third Reflection Due - April 1st, 2022**

Week 13: LAST CLASS TOGETHER Final book discussion

Date(s) of meetings: April 7-8

Readings:

Book Group: Watt-Cloutier. "The Right to be Cold" Citizens of the world. Chapter 9.(pgs: 286-315)Notes: Final - April 22nd, 2022

Notes: Critical Reflection of a Book Due - April 12th, 2022 (Last day of classes)

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments: All assignments can be submitted in the A2L assignment drop box by 11:59PM on due date

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK GRADE

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

Late Assignments

Students will submit their written work through Avenue to Learn at any time during the week it is due up until 11:59 on the Friday of that week. If you think you will have trouble meeting a deadline, please come and speak with me as penalties may apply (except in the case of documented illness or emergency). Late assignment will be deducted 10%. Assignments will be accepted for up to 2 weeks. Assignments not submitted will receive a 0.

Writing Conventions

Students must use Chicago's Manual of Style, which is the standard in the discipline of Indigenous Studies. The Chicago Manual of Style is available online through the library website: <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org.cyber.usask.ca/16/contents.html>

All work must be typed, double-spaced, and use either Times New Roman or Cambria 12-point font with standard margins. Ensure that your written work includes your full name, student number, and date. You can include a title page and title for major assignments. Please keep a digital copy of all your work in case I ask for a second copy.

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.

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 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

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the [Policy on 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 either by 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.
3. For additional information regarding requests for accommodation, relief for missed term work (e.g. MSAF), deferred examinations, etc., students should read carefully the [Requests](#) and [Resources](#) pages on the Arts & Science Program website.