ANTH 393
SELECTED PROBLEMS IN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY: Anthropologists and Indigenous Communities

INSTRUCTOR: Dr Rob Hancock (rola@uvic.ca)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will explore the relationships between anthropologists and Indigenous communities in North America since the 1870s. It will examine different models of engagement and the ways in which anthropologists have worked with and for Indigenous communities, while also considering Indigenous critiques of anthropology. The topic will be approached from historical and theoretical perspectives, examining the role that work with Indigenous communities played in the development of ethnography and anthropological theory over time; at the same time, discussion of ethical and political issues around research, engagement, and appropriation will take a central place.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- describe the processes of historical emergence of anthropology as a discipline in North America, focused on the relationship between research in Indigenous communities and ethnographic writing and anthropological theory
- identify and explain the significance of prominent anthropological research projects in Indigenous communities
- describe the ethical implications of working in and with Indigenous communities, and locate themselves in relation to these implications
- describe the role that anthropology can play in Indigenous communities in the future

Prerequisites: ANTH 200 or permission of the instructor