ANTH 391
PROPERTY AND INDIGENOUS LAND RIGHTS

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Brian Thom

Course Description and Objectives

This course will provide an introduction to the anthropology of property, broadly conceived as relations between people about things like land, or intangible cultural expressions. We will look to anthropologists’ work to theorize property relations and to document property systems, as an entry point to seeing beyond powerful norms like dominant liberal paradigms of private property. We will work to reveal how ideas of property – including those experienced through local or customary tenure systems and practices, and those defined by state law – are foundational to Indigenous peoples’ connections to their territories, and their ongoing concerns over the recognition of their rights. Through this course, students will come to better understand the nature of Indigenous peoples’ property rights, and will be better able to act as citizens through being informed about complexities and nuances of property relations in the contemporary world.