

ANTH 393 A03

Indigenous Oral Traditions

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tatiana Degai

Course Description and Objectives:

Storytelling is a powerful way to forward knowledge across generations ensuring knowledge transmission and striving for community well-being and prosperity. Over multiple centuries Indigenous people have been collecting chronicles of important events, experiences, and instructions that are carefully packaged in stories. This course is designed to develop deeper understanding of these stories and their teachings. Through course work the students will work on deconstructing stereotypical understandings of the Indigenous storytelling and look at the multiple venues where storytelling is used for to ensure proper reconciliation and decolonization. The students will learn through diverse Indigenous ways of sharing a story such as song, dance, craft, etc. as well as book clubs and talking circles. The final project for this course is research on the student's ancestry/family tree and stories associated with the student's family. Creativity is welcomed and encouraged in this course.

Skills Development:

- Learn to understand meanings, teachings and instructions that are hidden in the Indigenous stories;
- Practice knowledge sharing and communication through diverse ways of storytelling;
- Practice creative presentation design;
- Situate anthropological discourses in relation to Indigenous oral histories;
- Cultivate analytical and expository skills through critical analysis of the stories.