

# Anthropology 433-530

## COAST SALISH CULTURE AND CONTEMPORARY LIFE

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*INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Brian Thom*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course develops the idea that culture is the centre of much of contemporary political discourse. In Coast Salish First Nations communities, culture is at the heart of debates over land claims, self-government, individual and collective rights, property rights, and relationships with the environment. Through reading detailed ethnographic accounts of landscape and place, spirit power, kinship & social organization, subsistence economies, and oral traditions in Coast Salish communities, the students will grapple with the contemporary social and political challenges and opportunities for the practice and expression of these cultural lives.

### **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

This course will provide an opportunity for students to develop the skills in critically reading and engaging the media; read and appreciate ethnographies; gain knowledge about local indigenous culture and contemporary political issues; learn theoretical perspectives on 'place', 'relationality', 'power', 'governmentality', and human and indigenous rights, and social justice; and strengthen writing skills where ethnographic data is drawn on to support making an argument.