COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to the depth and complexity of Indigenous politics in Canada. Utilizing contemporary scholarship that addresses critical Indigenous political questions, the central theme of the course focuses on Indigenous peoples’ constructions and understandings of relationships in general (to Creation, oneself, and to others), and of relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in particular partnerships (eg. through treaties and alliances). It seeks to examine these relationships through an analysis of the critical concepts and issues in Indigenous politics and by tracing the various critiques and solutions proposed.

COURSE APPROACH

The structure of this course is built around lectures, discussions and close readings of selected texts. You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge in 3 short papers, a research paper, and a final exam. Students will examine some of the different strategies Indigenous peoples have developed to defend and demand recognition of their rights, to claim or contest Indigenous peoples’ “place” within the Canadian constitutional framework, and to call for a resurgence of Indigenous traditions while developing a greater understanding of Indigenous nationhood and legal traditions, the nature of aboriginal rights and a just political partnership with non-Indigenous peoples.

The overarching goals of this course are:

1. To provide an overview of Indigenous-state relations in Canada and of significant political issues within Indigenous communities;
2. To connect theory to practice by linking the questions and issues explored in the readings to contemporary contexts, and identifying the ways in which they manifest around us in our day-to-day lives;
3. To consider our place and responsibilities within the relationships discussed throughout the course, and explore ways to engage our own critical consciousness.

REQUIRED TEXTS


EVALUATION AND GRADING

Critical Analyses 30 % (3 x 10%)

Students are expected to submit 3 short (3-4 double spaced pages) critical responses to the course readings. One analysis is required for each section of the course. Students are expected to demonstrate critical thinking by identifying major themes and questions in the readings and reflecting critically on their position in relation to these issues. Each response must cite at least 3 readings from the section and should include:

- An introduction identifying one or more of the primary themes, issues, or questions that arise within the literature
- A brief summary of how the issues is taken up/ addressed by the author(s)
- Critical analysis of the author’s arguments
- A conclusion

Helpful questions to consider while you are writing include: How are the issues being framed in the literature? Which positions, arguments or perspectives are being highlighted, marginalized, or contradicted? How is political culture maintained and/or challenged by the authors? What are your own assumptions, opinions, and responsibilities in relation to the issue? What is the political significance of each author’s perspective/approach? What aspects of the issue are not being discussed? What questions would you like to see more/less space given to?

These papers must be typed, doubled spaced in Times New Roman, size 12 font with appropriate margins. Papers are to be submitted in-class.

- Paper 1: Due October 11, 2018
- Paper 2: Due November 8, 2018
- Paper 3: Due December 3, 2018

Please note: I do not accept late papers via email. You can submit late papers in the department dropbox which are time stamped at the end of each day (4pm). If you submit your paper in the dropbox on the due date, it is considered late. Late papers are reduced 10% the first day, and 5% for each day after.

Research Paper 25 %

Each student is required to demonstrate their ability to produce critical scholarship in the form of a 12-15 double-spaced page research paper. The paper should demonstrate your ability to analyze, interrogate, and self-reflexively engage in a critical investigation of a key issue or theme that inspired or provoked your thinking during the course. You may focus on any theme or question related to the course readings and discussion. Because of the wide range of possible topics, you will be required to submit a one-page proposal and bibliography prior on October 4, 2018.

This paper must be typed, double spaced in Times New Roman, size 12 font with standard margins. You may use either APA or Chicago style formatting.

- The final paper due in class on November 22, 2018. Late papers may be submitted to the department dropbox which are time stamped at the end of day (4pm). Papers submitted in the dropbox on the due date are considered late. Late papers will be penalized 10% the first day and 5% each day after.

Research Proposal and Bibliography 5%

Prior to writing students will submit an outline for their final paper. This will define the topic, argument, and scope of the project as well as a proposed bibliography with at least 5 sources. I will review your proposal to ensure that it is appropriate and manageable. The outline should be 1 double-spaced page plus the proposed bibliography. Topic idea and outline are to be submitted in class on October 4, 2017. Late assignments will be deducted 10% the first day, and 5% each day after.

Final Exam 35%

The final exam is during the scheduled exam time in December. It will last 2.5 hours and will cover material from the entire course, including all readings, lectures and discussions.
Participation 5%
Attendance, participation in discussion, and in class activities. Discussion of difficult subjects such as racialized and colonial violence will require a safe classroom environment in which each student can be trusted to respond respectfully, thoughtfully, and substantively. Please join me in making our classroom a space that is safe and inclusive of all voices, perspectives, genders, sexual orientations, racial backgrounds, and abilities.

Final Grade Breakdown
Critical Analyses 30% (3 x 10%)
Research Paper 25%
Research Proposal and Bibliography 5%
Final Exam 35%
Participation 5%

** To receive a passing grade, students must complete all course requirements. According to university policy, failure to complete one or more of the assignments will result in a grade of ‘N’ (incomplete) for the course. An ‘N’ is equivalent to a fail for your GPA. If you fail to complete a short paper, you will receive a zero for the assignment. Failure to complete the research paper will result in an N for the course.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passing Grades</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>85 – 89</td>
<td>Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>80 – 84</td>
<td>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>77 – 79</td>
<td>Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>73 – 76</td>
<td>Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>70 – 72</td>
<td>Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65 – 69</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60 – 64</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50 – 59</td>
<td>Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. The percentage grading scale applies to all Faculties at the University of Victoria.
2. The percentage grades should be associated with a letter grading schema.
3. A percentage grade for an N grade should be assigned in the following manner:
   **N Grade**: If a student has not completed the exam, or has not completed the course requirements, but has submitted course requirements that total more than 49% of the total grade for a course, an instructor will assign a percentage grade of 49%.
COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

*I reserve the right to add or delete reading from those listed below.

SECTION 1: RELATIONSHIPS

WEEK 1: Introduction
September 6 – Introduction, Syllabus

WEEK 2: Confronting Colonial Legacies

WEEK 3: Law and the Land

WEEK 4: Nationhood
## WEEK 5: Relationships


## SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

### WEEK 6: Beyond Recognition

**October 8 –** Thanksgiving (No Class)


### WEEK 7: The “Justice” System


### WEEK 8: Reconciliation


**WEEK 9:** Self-Determination and Indigenous Rights


**SECTION 3: RESURGENCE**

**WEEK 10:** Storytelling


**WEEK 11:** Reading Break

November 12 – READING BREAK

November 15 – NO CLASS
WEEK 12: Taking on Heteropatriarchy


WEEK 13: Lands and Waters


WEEK 14: Indigenous Economies and Decolonization


COURSE POLICIES

Computer and Email Policy
Check your university email account often. You will be held responsible for information about the class posted via email sent between classes (I will give you a reasonable amount of time to check email). If you do not intend to use your university account, you are responsible for forwarding mail to your primary account; I will only send mail to your university account. Full or unchecked email boxes do not excuse you from knowing the content of class emails. Please take the time to properly address your email inquiries, include the course number in the subject line, and make sure to properly sign your message.

Student Integrity
You are responsible for your own learning and classroom behaviour. In the spirit of collegiality, please come to class on time and do not disrupt the class with late arrivals. Make sure your cellphones are turned off at the start of class. Please do not text during class. Though you may think this is not noticed, it is very distracting. If you cannot refrain from texting in class, you will be asked to leave. This applies to other forms of inappropriate use of technology in class.

Accessibility & Accommodations
Diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. Students may have specific personal and/or technical requirements, or require flexibility in attending classes or meeting assignment deadlines. This may be because a student is differently abled, has unavoidable responsibilities, or has religious commitments. If you have specific considerations that may require accommodation, please make it known at the beginning of the term or as early as possible, both to the appropriate unit of the University, and instructor, and supply all the necessary documentation. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course. For more information, please consult with the Centre for Accessible Learning (formerly Resource Centre for Students with a Disability).

Attendance
Since this course depends on a combination of lecture and seminar style discussions, it is important that you attend regularly (and punctually), and that you participate fully and appropriately. I expect students to attend class prepared, and to come to class having read the material and formulated questions about the reading in preparation for discussions. Please bring relevant texts to each class meeting. Attendance is required and will affect your final grade.

If health or personal crises arise that necessitate your absence, it is your responsibility to obtain notes or other information from class. If you are absent for any reason, you are responsible for all material covered in class. It is up to you to take the initiative to find out what this material is. Excused absences include illness as verified by a doctor’s note, death in the immediate family, jury duty, military service,
religious holidays, and participation in school sports events. *Excused absences will not include vacations, transportation problems or employment.* See Attendance policy: [https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/attendance.html](https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/attendance.html)

**Late Policy**

Each of the assignments outlined in the syllabus have specific due dates. In accordance with UVic’s policies, extensions can only be given if there are circumstances in which there is a medical and/or family emergency and it is necessary to contact the instructor prior to the assignment due date. Please see the specific parameters for late policies below each assignment description.

If through circumstances you are unable to meet a due date for an assignment, you must discuss the parameters of a formal extension before the original assignment due date with your instructor (e.g. a negotiation and specification of the conditions required for completion of the assignment). In cases of illness or medical issues, documentation from a physician may be required.

Please read UVic’s policy on Academic Concessions: [https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/concessions.html](https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/concessions.html)

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individually or as a member of a group. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

The responsibility of the institution - Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

The responsibility of the student - Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student’s transcript, or a suspension. It is your responsibility to understand the University’s policy on academic integrity, which can be found on pages 32-34 of the undergraduate calendar.

Please see the (revised) academic integrity policy: [https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#](https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html#)

A student commits plagiarism when he or she:

- Submits the work of another person in whole or in part as original work
- Gives inadequate attribution to an author or creator whose work is incorporated into the student’s work, including failing to clearly (through accepted practices within the discipline, such as footnotes, internal references and the crediting of all verbatim passages through indentations of longer passages or to the use of quotation marks) the inclusion of another individual’s work
- Paraphrases material from a source without sufficient acknowledgement as described above.

The university reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software programs to detect plagiarism in essays, term papers, and other work.
Examples of other academic offences include: unauthorized use of an editor, submitting course work that is identical or substantially similar to work that has been submitted for another course ("multiple submission"); cheating on exams, tests, assignments or reports; impersonating somebody at a test or exam; obtaining an exam, test, or other course material through theft, collusion, purchase or improper manner. Submitting false records, information or data, in writing or orally, is also an academic offence.

It is a violation to help others or attempt to help other engage in any of these or other academic offences outlined in the University’s Policy on Academic Integrity. Please familiarize yourself with the University guidelines on this subject.

Penalties for plagiarism and other academic offences range from F (zero) on the assignment, exam, or test, to a maximum of suspension or expulsion from the University (repeat offences).

Course Experience Survey (CES)
I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

Resources:

Indigenous Student Support Centre
Phone: 250-721-6005
Email: hsdissc@uvic.ca
Human and Social Development Building, room B211

Centre for Accessible Learning (formerly Resource Centre for Students with a Disability)
Phone: 250-472-4947
Email: calfrontdesk@uvic.ca
Campus Services Building, Room 150

Counselling Services
Phone: 250-721-8341
Email: counsell@uvic.ca
University Centre Room B270

Centre for Academic Communication
Phone: 250-721-8571
Book an Appointment online: https://uvic.mywconline.com
Library 135J