



Camosun College
Aboriginal Education & Community Connections
Indigenous Studies
IST 092-X17 – Introduction to Indigenous Studies
Fall 2012

Instructor Information

Instructor: Tommy Happynook

Office Hours: 11:30-12:30 2nd floor Camosun office.

Instructional Assistant: Wendy McDonald (McDonald@camosun.bc.ca)

Class Location and Time: Saanich Adult Education Center 2nd floor, Monday, 12:30pm – 3:20pm

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Course Content

This course looks at Aboriginal peoples' relationships with land, resources, cultures, and each other, as well as historical and contemporary relationships between Aboriginal people, settlers and settler governments. The course includes an overview of Aboriginal cultures in BC, colonialism, and cultural and political re-emergence.

Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course students will:

- Analyze the relations of Aboriginal peoples with the natural world by relating to the traditional settlement and lifestyle patterns of a local First Nation
- Relate Aboriginal concepts of land and resource ownership to spiritual and other cultural dimensions, including language
- Explain the intent of various government policies related to BC First Nations before and after Confederation
- Assess the impacts of contact and colonialism on social organization, spiritual beliefs, and governance, among BC First Nations
- Demonstrate competence in the critical thinking skills that are essential for understanding such issues as land claims and self-government
- Assess personal values in relations to appreciation of other peoples and cultures

Course Materials

Required Text:

1. Campbell, K., Menzies, C. & Peacock, B. 2003. *B.C. First Nations Studies*. Vancouver, BC. Pacific Educational Press, UBC.

2. Poth, J. 1990. *Saltwater People, as told by Dave Elliott Sr.* Native Education, School District 63.

** Students will also require a Flash Drive for written assignments.

Basis for Student Assessment

1. Attendance & participation	10%
2. Chapter presentation	20%
3. Chapter presentation references	10%
4. Reading summaries	20% (2x10%)
5. Court case assignment	10%
6. Research paper	30%

Assignments

1. Attendance 10%

Students are expected to attend all classes to learn, share ideas, and dialogue with one another. Participation through group discussions, written assignments, and interacting with guest speakers are critical to the successful progression of this course. Your engagements with other students will enrich the classroom learning and benefit your assignments.

Due to the nature of the course, you are expected to attend each class on time unless previously arranged with the instructor. Attendance and tardiness will be noted. Your attendance is essential and students need to attend class in order to succeed in this course.

2. Chapter presentation 20%

Individually or in a small group, students will present on one of the chapters from the BC First Nations Studies text. Presentations should include a brief summary of the chapter; what was interesting about the chapter and what was not; Students may bring in other resources related to the chapter topic. Students are welcomed to use power point; share a story, song, history, artwork, and/or artifact; bring in a guest speaker; or lead an exercise.

3. Chapter presentation references 10%

Each student must provide a copy of the references they used in their presentation. References should be listed in the proper APA style and are due at the end of the presentation.

4. Reading summary 20% (2x10%)

Students are required to complete a 1-2 page reading summary for two different readings. The summary should clearly and concisely outline the major themes of the reading and specific interests to the student.

5. Court case assignment

10%

Students will be given a handout that must be completed for the next class. The handout will list four important court cases that students will have to complete by filling in the missing information. This assignment will be discussed in more detail during class.

6. Research paper

30%

Students will write a 5-7 page research paper that is due on the last day of class. The research paper must focus on one of the topics discussed in the course.

A list of potential topics will be provided, however, students may choose another topic, subject to the instructor's approval. Students are expected to write an academic paper, with a minimum of 4 sources. This assignment will be discussed in more detail during class.

Course Schedule

September 10: Introduction & acknowledgment of territory

Discussion Topics:

- Welcome and introductions
- Territorial acknowledgment
- Overview of course outline and class expectations
- Requirement that assignments be completed on computer
- Discussion of why we are in this course

September 17: Land & language

Reading:

1. BC First Nations Studies: introduction & chapter 1

Discussion Topics:

- How are we connected to the land
- How has the land influenced Indigenous culture
- How does the land we come from shape our identity

Assignment: sign up for chapter presentations

September 24: Living on & sharing the land

Reading:

1. BC First Nations Studies: chapters 2 & 3

Film:

1. Whose land is this? BC Learning Connections (1999)

Discussion Topics:

- Whose land are we on
- How do the stories we tell relate to where we come from
- How does knowledge of the land support our learning

October 01: Contact & the colonial era

Reading:

1. BC First Nations Studies: chapters 4 & 5

Discussion Topics:

- The fur trade (1770-1849)
- The colonial era (1849-1871)
- What were the settler patterns in BC
- What affects did colonization have on our ancestors

October 08: No class – thanksgiving holiday

October 15: The Métis

Guest: Victoria Pruden

Reading:

1. BC First Nations Studies: chapter 11

Discussion Topics:

- Who are the Métis
- Where are the Métis located
- Métis history
- Métis culture today

Assignment: reading assignment #1

October 22: Canadian policy & Aboriginal rights

Reading:

1. BC First Nations Studies: chapters 6 & 8

Discussion Topics:

- The Indian act

- The reserve system
- The potlatch
- Residential schools
- The sixties scoop
- Organizing resistance

October 29: Justice & transition

Reading:

1. BC First Nations Studies: chapters 9 & 10

Discussion Topics:

- The Calder case
- The constitution act
- Oka
- The Sparrow case
- Van der Peet v. The queen
- Delgamuukw

Assignment: Court case assignment due at end of class

November 05: Cultural revival, self-government, & treaties

Reading:

1. BC First Nations Studies: chapters 12 & 13

Discussion Topics:

- What lies ahead for our communities
- What strategies are being used to make our communities better
- Cultural revival and resurgence
- Examples of cultural resurgence

November 12: No class – Remembrance Day

November 19: Oral traditions

Reading:

1. BC First Nations Studies: chapter 14
2. The Saltwater people (browse through this book)

Discussion Topics:

- Learning our languages

- The oral traditional as teaching tool
- How do stories relate to what you believe or know
- Indigenous stories as history

Assignments: reading assignment #2

November 26: Art & moving beyond stereotypes

Reading:

1. BC First Nations Studies: chapters 16 & 17

Film:

1. Reel Injun

Discussion Topics:

- Reel Injun
- Indigenous art as writing history
- Creating art for sale vs. creating art for culture
- Stereotypes & moving beyond them

December 03: Indigenous literature

Reading:

1. BC First Nations Studies: chapters 15

Discussion Topics:

- Authors of Indigenous literature
- Appropriation of our stories
- Understanding Indigenous knowledge
- Incorporating our own words and ways in literature

Assignment: research paper

Instructional Policies

1. Late Assignments

All assignments must be completed and submitted on the date assigned. All written work that is late will be penalized by 5% per day unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by the instructor in advance of the assignment due date.

2. Written Assignment Requirements

All written assignments are due at the beginning of class. Written assignments must be typewritten, double-spaced, and meet the requirements of the APA referencing. Assignments should be turned in to the instructor personally; assignments put under the door, in the mail, or otherwise submitted will not be accepted without approval from the instructor. If submission of an assignment is problematic, contact the instructor prior to the due date.

3. Assignment Preparation

The instructor is available to assist students in the preparation and planning of all course assignments. Please contact the instructor to make an appointment. If you require an extension or support for an assignment, contact the instructor before the due date.

4. Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Dishonesty

If plagiarism, cheating, or academic dishonesty can be documented, the penalty will be an automatic “zero” on the assignment in question. Camosun College’s policy on Plagiarism can be found here: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-&support/e-2.5.1.pdf>

Course Grading System

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B+		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a “D” grade cannot be used as a prerequisite	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved	0

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-&-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>

Competency Based Grading System

Grade	Description
Com	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum, or field placement
DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum, or field placement
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum, or field placement

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-&-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>

Academic Progress Policy

There is an academic progress policy designed to enhance a learner's likelihood of success. Students should become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School administration office, registration, and on the college website at:

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-&-instruction/e-1.1.pdf>