

GEOG 3410F Indigenous Knowledge and Traditions

Course Outline: Section 001 FALL 2025

I take this opportunity to welcome students to the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay- wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-wonda-run) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples (e.g., First Nations, Métis and Inuit) whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society.

Lecture – face to face and on occasion via zoom (Advance notice will be given if on zoom).
Wednesdays 1.30pm – 4.30pm

1. Course Information

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6



Classes Start	Fall Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 4th	November 3 rd – 9th	December 9th	December 10 th	December 11 th – 22nd

September 12th 2025: Last day to add or drop a 12 week course.

October 13th 2025: Thanks giving day

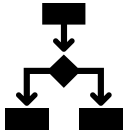
Dec 1st 2025: Last day to drop a fall 12 week course without academic penalty.



Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr Lewis Williams	Lewis.Williams@uwo.ca	By appointment in person or Via zoom Group Drop in available immediately after class

2. Calendar Description

This course offers an introduction to the interrelated dynamics of climate crisis and colonialism. The influence of geographies of epistemology, culture, place and power on climate change impacts, strategies, and outcomes is explored. Adopting an anti-colonialist framework and emphasizing inclusive Indigenous Kinship approaches the course moves from theory to action.



3 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

Prerequisite(s): Any course in Arts, Humanities or Social Science and registration in the third year or higher

Antirequisites: N/A

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility.

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

3. Textbook

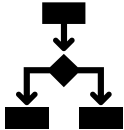


☒ All resources will be posted in OWL

4. Course Objectives and Format

This is an interactive and participatory course that will draw on your own developing knowledge of this subject area. Students are expected to be active contributors to learning and knowledge exchange activities. We are a community of learners. Learning objectives are as follows

- Students will be introduced to some of the key dimensions of Indigenous knowledge, how it is produced and reproduced; key values underlying IK; and, the relationship between historical forms and contemporary expressions of IK;
- We will discuss the relevance of Treaties to Indigenous knowledges and the implications of these for the expression of IK within evolving Indigenous Governance arrangements today, including contemporary environmental issues;
- Students will be invited to reflect on their own cultural identities and experiences, the ways in which these have and continue to shape their relationship to IK and their contemporary applications;
- Students will gain an understanding of the ways in which place, and relational traditions of place-making, as these are embedded in language, stories, ceremony, traditional food and medicine, systems of cultivation and food gathering, and art, both maintain and create new traditions and IK;
- Students will gain an understanding of the ways in which IK and traditions are relevant for informing societal conduct and sustainable models of citizenship;
- Through class discussions and self-reflections students will gain an understanding of the ways in which they can ethically engage with Indigenous knowledges and traditions within their own lives to enhance individual and societal wellbeing. “

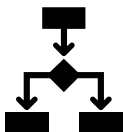


☒ This is a participatory class that involves group work. You have a responsibility to your classmates as well as yourself to attend. You must attend a minimum of 10 classes to pass this course.

☒ Missed work undertaken in class should be completed within 48 hours

All course material will be posted to the new OWL Brightspace learning environment: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.



If you need technical assistance, you can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help page](#). Alternatively, you can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- A. Identify the key worldviews, values and ethics of engagement with Indigenous knowledge systems including their relevance to Treaty relations.
- B. Identify the ways linguistic, cultural and place-based traditions maintain and shape the continued evolution of Indigenous knowledges and traditions in contemporary Indigenous contexts.
- C. Demonstrate self-understanding (whether Indigenous to place or not) of the relationship between the Indigenous Knowledge systems and Traditions being explored in this course and their own cultural identities and epistemological lineages.
- D. Demonstrate the relevance of Indigenous knowledges and traditions for informing sustainable practices of citizenship and societal conduct generally.
- E. Demonstrate how students can ethically engage with Indigenous knowledges within their own lives.



6. Course Content and Schedule

This course will be taught in person. If in the unlikely event a class session needs to be taught online, students will be notified in advance.

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	September 10 th	Introduction to the course and each other. What is Indigenous knowledge and how is it transmitted.	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
2	September 17 th	Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous governance and citizenship	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
3	September 24 th	IK: Historical and contemporary contexts Knowledge Bundle One.	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
4	October 1 st	IK, cultural traditions and ancestral lineages	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
5	October 8 th	IK and Traditions: Contemporary contexts, land, language and ceremony.	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
6	October 15 th	Digital Stories	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
7	October 22 nd	IK and Traditions: Rongoa Maori as an Indigenous public health system	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
8	October 29 th	IK and traditions and Sustainable citizenship	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
NOVEMBER 3 RD – 9 TH FALL BREAK			
9	November 12 th	Knowledge Bundle Two	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder <i>Assessment 4 due 20th March</i>
10	November 19 th	IK and traditions and Sustainable citizenship	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
11	November 26 th	To be advised	As posted bi-weekly to OWL under the resources folder
12	December 3 rd	Review of Semester's Learnings and Class reflections	Dec 5 th Reflective Diary is Due.

7. Communication



- ☒ Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- ☒ A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- ☒ Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using OWL Brightspace
- ☒ For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address.
- ☒ Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- ☒ This course will use Microsoft Teams for discussions [If you want to use Teams, there are resources available on the OWL site to assist with getting started]
- ☒ This course will use the OWL Brightspace for discussions

8. Evaluation



Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
One	Knowledge Bundle One: Group Work and presentation	10%	24 th September
Two	Digital Story	30%	15 th October

Three	Knowledge Bundle Two: Group Work and presentation	10%	12 th November
Four	Research Essay	25%	Thursday November 26 th
Five	Reflective Diary	25%	December 5 th

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

The parameters regarding the possible of use of AI (Artificial intelligence) within assignments will be included on the instructions sheet for each assignment.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

Course-specific conditions that are required to pass the course includes a minimum attendance of ten classes.

- ☒ All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- ☒ Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- ☒ Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin
- ☒ Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- ☒ After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days [

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

General Information about missed work:

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found [here](#).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

Formal Documentation Designation statement:

Please note that all assessments are central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for any assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for an assessment will be provided with an appropriate opportunity – e.g. alternate presentation format, deadline extension - to make up the work:

Flexibility statements

Please note that because the submission deadline for all assessments already includes flexibility in the form of a 72-hour submission window past the due date, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility.

When a student receives academic considerations or academic accommodations which overlap with the built-in flexibility of the assessment, the longest period of accommodation will determine the deadline.

Absence from Course Commitments

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Academic Consideration for Course Components with Flexible Deadlines

This course employs flexible deadlines for assignments. The assignment deadlines can be found above in the course outline. For each assignment, students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted. If you have a long-term academic consideration (E.g. medical, compassionate, or extenuating circumstances) or an accommodation for disability that allows greater flexibility than provided here, please reach out to your instructor at least one week prior to the posted deadline.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays. Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

10. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

11. Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

12. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question

regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

13. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's Health and Wellness website for more information on mental health resources.

14. Support Services

Western's Support Services
Student Development Centre

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

15. Important Dates

Thursday September 4th: Classes resume

Friday September 12th Last day to add a second term half course

Monday October 13th: Thanksgiving Day – Department Office Closed

November 3rd – 9th: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

Monday Dec 1st: Last day to drop a twelve-week course without academic penalty

Tuesday 9th December: Classes end

December 10th: Study day

December 11th – 22nd: Examination Period.