

INDIGENOUS STUDIES 2218-G

Contemporary Indigenous Issues Winter 2026

Tuesdays, 1:30pm – 4:30pm EST
Wampum Learning Lodge Dome

Instructor:



Office Hours: Mondays, 12:00pm – 1:00pm via Zoom

Zoom link will be posted on our OWL Brightspace site.

Meetings outside of office hours may be scheduled based on instructor availability.

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-won-da-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.

Course Description

This course explores the critical challenges still faced by Indigenous peoples in Canada. The material covered will be timely and relevant, including legal and political mobilization; jurisdictional authority and self-determination; land rights and treaty relationships; the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls inquiry. **NEW FOR 2026:** This course now includes critical examination of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), and their intersection with Indigenous knowledge systems.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Antirequisite(s): The former Anthropology 2218F/G

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Apply critical thinking and analytical skills to representations of contemporary First Nations, Inuit and Métis to understand how colonization has impacted and continues to impact Indigenous communities in Canada.
2. Understand the origins of key contemporary issues and challenges faced by Indigenous peoples in Canada.
3. Identify and recognize unique contributions of Indigenous knowledge systems in society.
4. Understand how 'reconciliation' processes can address systemic barriers to Indigenous Peoples.
5. Deepen self-understanding of their own cultural identity and social power locations.
6. NEW: Analyze the ethical implications of AI and digital technologies in Indigenous contexts.
7. NEW: Evaluate approaches to decolonizing technology and supporting Indigenous data sovereignty.

Required Text

Simpson, L. (2011). *Dancing on our turtle's back: Stories of Nishnaabeg re-creation, resurgence and a new emergence*. Arbeiter Ring Pub.

Text can be purchased at the bookstore on the main campus, or at Indigo for a cost of \$24.95. ebook available for \$10.99. Additional required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on OWL Brightspace.

Course Expectations

This course is designated as blended and will offer both in-class and online sessions. We will have in-person only classes, as well as designated weeks that will be online via Zoom (synchronous) and/or asynchronous. When we have class in-person, you are expected to attend, as this provides the opportunity for us to interact, share ideas, and learn from one another as a community.

Method of Evaluation

Assessment	Description	Weight
In-class Discussion Activities	4 activities (Weeks 2, 4, 6, 9) with written reflections. One optional make-up in Week 11.	20% (4 × 5%)
Meaning Making/Essay Proposal	Written (max 300 words) or video format proposal. Due Week 5.	5%
Story-telling Assignment	Written story (800 words) due Week 7 (15%) + 3-minute oral presentation with visual due Week 9 (10%)	25%
Final Project	Choice between meaning-making assignment or 2500-word essay with 3-page reflection. Due April 3.	35%
Attendance & Participation	Regular attendance and engagement in discussions	10%
TOTAL		100%

Course Assessment Requiring Supporting Documentation: Final Project: Meaning Making/Essay Assignment, due 11:55pm EST, Friday, April 3rd, 2026.