

INDIGENOUS STUDIES 2412F
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT 2412F

Indigenous Health and Healthcare Environments Fall 2026

Land Acknowledgment

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

The health of Indigenous people - individuals, families, populations, and communities, are deeply affected by colonization and other distal, Indigenous determinants of health, including structural ones that have become embedded within places and spaces of health, such as hospitals. This course provides historic and conceptual foundations for understanding contemporary Indigenous health through the lens of colonial disruption and dispossession, situating contexts of health and healthcare environments as important places of reconciliation.

NEW FOR 2026: This course deepens its focus on environmental dispossession and repossession as central concepts for understanding Indigenous health. New units examine the climate crisis and wildfires (including a case study of Maui and the Lāhainā fires), the health implications of pipelines and resource extraction in BC and Alberta, and the Indigenous determinants of health, drawing on *Because This Land Is Who We Are* (Richmond, Coombes & Louis, 2024) and *Theory of Water* (Simpson, 2025).

In this course, you will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of spatial practice and policy through exploring concepts from multiple perspectives on Indigenous health -- from professional/clinical perspectives to people/patients, and inclusive of traditional knowledge keepers/Elders. The focus will be on spatially examining spaces of Indigenous health practice and policy grounded in decolonizing, critical theory. Themes and concepts in Indigenous health geography are examined as they relate to creating equitable spaces, practice and policy. This course enhances learners' awareness about critical thinking skills through course readings and discussions related to case studies in various learning activities, as well as through personal reflection.

Prerequisites: None

Antirequisites: None

Credit Value: 0.5

Required Text

Greenwood, M., Leeuw, D. S., Stout, R., Larstone, R., & Sutherland, J. (2023). *Introduction to determinants of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples' Health in Canada*. Canadian Scholars. Cost for text: \$139.99 (Amazon.ca) or \$89.99 (print) or \$79.99 (digital ebook) via:

[Introduction to Determinants of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples' Health in Canada - Canadian Scholars](#)

Additional required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on OWL Brightspace, in an open access (free) PDF version.

Richmond, C., Coombes, B., & Louis, R.P. (2024). *Because This Land Is Who We Are: Indigenous Practices of Environmental Repossession*. Bloomsbury Academic. Open access (free), DOI: 10.5040/9781350247703.

Simpson, L.B. (2025). *Theory of Water: Nishnaabe Maps to the Times Ahead*. Knopf Canada. Selected excerpts will be posted on OWL.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Critically appraise Indigenous health practices and research
 - Compare and contrast processes of colonization and reconciliation in healthcare
 - Recognize and respect core concepts and approaches to cultural safety and equity in healthcare environments
 - Advocate for equitable healthcare for Indigenous peoples
 - Assess Indigenous health related research that is used to inform policy and healthcare practices
 - **NEW:** Explain processes of environmental dispossession and repossession and their relationships to Indigenous health and wellbeing
 - **NEW:** Critically analyze how climate change, wildfires and resource extraction shape the Indigenous determinants of health, and identify Indigenous-led responses
-