

Indigenous Studies Program
IS 4142F: Decolonizing Relations
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2025

Date: 14/07/2025

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Cortney Golkar-Dakin

Method of delivery: Indicate either: in person.

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Any course in Arts and Humanities or Social Science and registration in third year or higher.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking [the Academic Calendar](#).

Course Description:

Colonialism has impacted nearly every part of the globe and every aspect of our lives, it continues to shape how we understand our selves, social movements, research methodologies, inequality, and the world around us. Colonial relations, comprised of hierarchical social structures, are characterized by interrelated racial, class, gender, and state powers. Decolonization involves a transformational re-centering of noncolonial ways of knowing, being, and doing. Black and Indigenous peoples around the world have shaped the rich intellectual traditions of decolonial theory through liberatory struggles that make explicit distinctions and connections between their experiences. Throughout the term we will revisit key authors (Fanon, Coulthard, Simpson) on the dismantling of colonial power relations and the radical resurgence of Indigenous land-based relations. The course will focus on two key themes in contemporary decolonial theory: "embodiment" and "grounded normativity". Students will examine colonial power, explore decolonial action, and assess how more equitable and sustainable relationships with the land may be generated. Particular attention will be given to Black, local Indigenous, and queer brilliance as a way of challenging entrenched colonial power.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

No textbook is needed. Required readings will be available through the course site.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Land-based activities (4x10%)	40%
More-than-human kin study	15%
Paper proposal	10%
Final paper	30%
Participation	5%

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