DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
University of Toronto

COURSE OUTLINE

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN CANADA
Fall 2013

Instructor: Deborah McGregor
Room: St. George Campus, MP 134
Times: Monday 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00 p.m- 3:30 p.m. or by appointment
Office: Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives, Borden Building North, 563 Spadina Ave., 2nd floor.
Contact: d.mcgregor@utoronto.ca
Phone: (416) 978-2234

TA: Nicole Latulippe: nicole.latulippe@mail.utoronto.ca

Course Description

This course will explore a variety of topics relating to Aboriginal views of environment and resource management from pre-European contact times through to the present. Emphasis will be placed on the currently emerging role of Aboriginal people in environmental and resource management and governance in Canada through such mechanisms as self-government, land claims settlements, application of Aboriginal and treaty rights and co-management regimes. Case examples will be utilized from areas such as sustainable development, social justice, waste management, traditional knowledge, forestry, water quality and wildlife management.

Course Objectives

- Gain an understanding of the theoretical and practical concepts, diverse perspectives and histories of Indigenous and environmental issues in Canada.
- Introduce students to key challenges, opportunities and successes experienced by Aboriginal peoples and their intersection with environmental, political, legal and economic developments.
- Understand the integration of historical, ecological, cultural, social, political, economic and institutional dimensions within contemporary resource management strategies and environmental governance structures by Aboriginal Peoples.
- Develop an appreciation for Indigenous environmental and ecological perspectives, knowledges, values and spirituality related to environmental governance
- Gain an understanding of the spectrum of environmental issues and governance arrangements in Canada
- Relate concepts and ideas in the course with student’s academic and personal interests.
**Recommended Preparation**

Recommended Preparation: 8 FCE’s including 1.0 in Geography and/or Aboriginal Studies  
Distribution Status: This is social science course  
Breadth requirement: Society and its institutions (3)

**Communication, Office Hours & Course Management**

Use blackboard. I will send announcements out on a regular basis. Office hours will be held Wednesday afternoons (2 to 3:30 p.m.). If you cannot make this time please contact me and we can arrange another time.

Taking photos and video recordings of lectures are not permitted. Audio recording require permission of the instructor. Any activities on the laptop computers, tablets, cell phones and other devices not related to note taking are disrespectful to the instructor and classmates. No cell phone use is permitted in the classroom, including texting. Please leave the classroom to engage in these activities. Lectures will cover some aspects of the readings, but will different in content. You are responsible for all material covered in the course (lectures, readings, videos, guest lecturers). Lecture presentations will provide the conceptual and theoretical frameworks for understanding issues and themes related to Indigenous and environmental issues in Canada.

**Course Assignments and Evaluation**

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<td>Term Test</td>
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<td>Research Proposal &amp; Literature Review</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Term Test (20%)**

Each student will be required to write a term test based on course readings, lectures, audio-visual materials, and information presented by guest speakers. The test will normally consist of terminology related and short answer type questions. The term test is worth 20% of the final grade and will be held on **November 4th, 2013.**

**Research Proposal & Literature Review (15%)**

Students will be required to prepare a research proposal and literature review of a topic related to the course material. This review will form the basis of the final research paper. This assignment is worth 15% of the final grade and is due **October 21st, 2013.**

**Research Paper (25%)**

Each student will prepare a 15 page research/analytical paper on a topic related to course material. This paper is worth 25% of the final grade and is due **December 4th, 2013.**
Final Exam (40%)
Students will write a final exam worth 40% of their total grade for the course. The exam will be two hours in length and will be normally be comprised terminology, short answer and essay-type questions.

Late Assignments
Assignments are due in class on the assigned date. Assignments handed in after the due date will receive 5% off the grade for every day late to a maximum of 7 days. After 7 days assignments will no longer be accepted.

Plagiarism
From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters:

It shall be an offence for a student knowingly:

(d) to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism.
Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.

Quite simply don’t do it. Bad idea. See http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/pagsep.htm/ for hints of how NOT to plagiarism (check to make sure website still works)

Accessibility
The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility

Required Readings and Course Materials

- Course Readings Package
- Readings assigned in Course Outline (can obtain these on-line)
- Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (various chapters and sections).
**Week One: September 9th: Introduction - Understanding Indigenous Perspectives**


Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Volume 4: Perspectives and Realities: Elders Perspectives. Chapter 3, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5.6, 5.9, 6.0 (only). http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014597

**Week Two: September 16th: Indigenous Geographies**


**Week Three: September 23rd: Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relations**


**Video: Time Immemorial**

**Week Four: September 30th: Environmental Perspectives**


**Week Five: October 7th: Aboriginal and Treaty Rights - Self Government**


**Video: Self Government**

**Week Six: October 14th THANKSVIGING: NO CLASS**

**Week Seven: October 21st : Indigenous Environmental and Resource Management**


Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. *Land & Resources: Background 3.1-3.2 (only).* http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014597

**Paper Proposal and Literature Review Due (15%)**
**Week Eight: October 28th: Environmental Challenges: Environmental Justice**


**Week Nine: November 4th: Term Test**

**Week Ten: November 11th (FALL BREAK: NO CLASS)**

**Week Eleven: November 18th: Working Cooperatively with Aboriginal People**


**Week Twelve: November 25th: World View and Environmental Philosophy: Challenges and Opportunities Traditional Ecological Knowledge**


**Week Thirteen: December 2nd: Indigenous Environmental Governance**


Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Volume 3: Chapter 3: *Governance: Aboriginal Perspectives: 1.1-1.3* (only).
http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014597

**VIDEO: Indigenous Environmental Governance (CIER)**

**Week Fourteen: December 4th: Future Directions in Environmental Governance & Review**


United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Research Paper Due (25%)**