INDG-101 – Introduction to Indigenous Studies

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Winter 2027
Course Outline Review Date: 2032-11-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

This is a foundational course which introduces the interdisciplinary field of Indigenous Studies. Students examine documents developed by/for/and with Indigenous Peoples. The emphasis is on Indigenous Peoples' experiences within Canada and BC specifically, and in relationship to the global community. Students will be introduced to Place Based approaches in order to understand the current historical, political, social, cultural and spiritual context of Truth and Reconciliation from Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives.

Program Information:

This course can be used as either a required course or an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Social Sciences, Humanities

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45

Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

- Earned a minimum grade of C+ (65%) in at least 1 of the following:
  - ENST 12 – English Studies 12
  - ENFP 12 – English First Peoples 12
  - ENGL090 – Provincial English: Literature-based (0)

Prior Learning and Recognition: Yes

Students are able to request formal recognition of their prior learning or experience outside the classroom. Challenge examination, portfolio-assisted assessment, work-based assessment or a combination of assessments that is appropriate to identify, assess, and recognize prior skills, competencies, and knowledge to achieve course credit. Tuition fees apply, refer to Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) or contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see https://www.bctransferguide.ca/ or https://transferalberta.alberta.ca . For more transfer credit information, please visit https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columba or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year:

Puglaas–Wilson-Raybould, J. *True Reconciliation: How to Be a Force for Change*. McClelland and Stewart.

Joseph, B. (2018). *21 things you may not know about the Indian Act: Helping Canadians make reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a reality*. Indigenous Relations Press.

Additional readings will be linked into the course itself as required. Not all chapters are assigned from all texts.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/ for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- list and apply the terms used to identify Indigenous Peoples over time and in local, provincial, national and international contexts;
- apply concepts inherent to Intractable Conflict to explain Indigenous Peoples' experiences of colonization, decolonization and Indigenization within Truth and Reconciliation efforts, over time in Canada;
- discuss the importance of Indigenous Peoples' languages and relationship to Place;
- examine perspectives within government reports, commissions, and inquiries pertaining to Indigenous Peoples in Canada (i.e., RCAP, TRC, Inquiry into MMIW);
- evaluate the current challenges/controversies implementing the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the intentions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action; and
- reflect upon one's own self-development and learning as a process of unfreezing within Reconciliation efforts.

Course Topics:

- Intractable Conflict and Its Processes including Terminology, Peace Building and Reconciliation
- Terminology Identifying/Dehumanizing Indigenous Peoples Values and Worldview Differences and Similarities
- The Context of Indigenous Peoples: Globally, Nationally, Provincially, Regionally
- Indigenous Peoples' Place-Based and Nation-Specific Identities
- Indigenous Peoples' Relationality
- Homelands, Waterways and Territorial Acknowledgements
- The Role of Truth in Truth and Reconciliation
- The Role of Reconciliation in Peace Processes
- The Role of Indigenous Peoples' Scholarship, Collective Memory and Story Telling

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Participation and Engagement in Discussions/Lecture-Based Activities	40%
Reflective Learning Journal Entries	15%
Major Assignment (2-Part Assignment)	25%
Final Project	20%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Evaluation Notes: A grade of “D” grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a “0” on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/ and include the following:

- Policy 2.1.4 Course Audit
- Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
- Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
- Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
- Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.