



INDG-240 – Indigenous Family Support Studies

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2022

Course Outline Review Date: 2026-03-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

This course is taught from a nation-specific framework, focusing deeply on the local Ktunaxa nation, while connecting these localized conversations to broader dynamics of First Nations, Aboriginal, and Inuit (referred to inclusively as Indigenous) families. Students will learn from a variety of Indigenous-created sources, including directly from Indigenous families, support workers, and advocates. Indigenous concepts of family, raising children, and the importance of community, as well as the impacts of child removal on Indigenous nations through various government tactics will be discussed. From this, students will work towards a better understanding of how they can assist in providing culturally appropriate family support and promoting family wellness and safe environments for all children.

Program Information:

This course is required in the AESW program and is an elective in other College programs. Refer to the College online guide for more information.

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

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Social Sciences

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:

None

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at other BC institutions, please see <http://www.bctransferguide.ca>. All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in BC or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrollment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Fournier, S. & Crey, E. (1997) *Stolen from Our Embrace: The Abduction of First Nations Children and the Restoration of Aboriginal Communities*. Vancouver: Douglas McIntyre.

Other course readings and resources available online.

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:

- recognize own personal biases, assumptions and prejudices;
 - describe the strength and cohesion in Indigenous families and communities;
 - recognize the value and importance of Indigenous family support;
 - articulate the differences between mainstream and Indigenous family support and child protection;
 - identify legislation and Government mandates regarding Indigenous families;
 - explain inter-generational effects of residential schools and other government assimilation policies of forced child removal on Indigenous families and communities (ie. “the 60s” and “millennial” Scoops and current Indigenous child welfare system);
 - differentiate between “Western” or Canadian cultural concepts of family systems (ie. “nuclear family”) and those of Indigenous nations, both in historical and contemporary contexts;
 - identify best practices and various successful models of Indigenous family support systems;
 - demonstrate awareness and cultural sensitivity for working with Indigenous families and communities;
 - identify regional resources and supports available for Indigenous families; and
 - develop skills to prevent vicarious trauma and burnout.
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Course Topics:

- Awareness of Your Biases, Assumptions and Prejudices
- Introduction and Overview of Indigenous Family Support
- Cultural conceptions of Family
- Impact of Residential Schools and "Sixties Scoop" on Family and Communities
- Indigenous perspectives on Family Health and Wellness
- Needs and Challenges specific to Indigenous Parents and Caregivers
- Historical and Intergenerational Trauma
- How to support children facing family violence, abuse, and/or neglect
- Understanding Lateral Violence
- Support Models and Best Practice Examples
- Community Strength and Cohesion
- Working in a Cross-cultural Environment
- Self-care and Vicarious Trauma

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
Research Paper	25%
Online discussions and completion of small assignments and exercises	20%
Reflective Journals	30%
Final Reflective Project	25%
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

Pass requirements: All assignments and evaluations must be completed.

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 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty

Equivalent Course(s) and Course Code Changes

Prior Course Code: SOCI 240

Date changed: March 2021

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.