

Course Overview

Course readings

There are two mandatory course texts and additional readings will be posted on the CourseSpaces site. Reading - and engaging with the readings (highlighting, underlining, taking good notes etc.) – is essential for your enjoyment of and success in this course. Coming to class unprepared is a waste of time for you and everyone else (and it makes things really boring).

1. McGillivray, B. 2011.
Vancouver: UBC Press
2. Vaillant, J. 2006.
. Toronto: Vintage

Notes on learning expectations

1. Think deeply about why you are here and what you want to get out of your experience at UVic in the short time you'll be here. Use this time wisely to develop marketable skills and good habits - e.g. effective written and oral communication, critical thinking*, problem solving, empathic listening, organization, perseverance, and initiative.
2. I consider such skill development and good habit formation as being at least as important as content mastery in this course. While I want you to learn important things about BC's geography, I also want you to develop particular skills and habits. Keep in mind employers are much more concerned with your skills and habits than your marks.
3. Effective learning involves recognizing how the course material is directly relevant to your life – in this case how your own story is weaved into the story of BC and how you have the responsibility of helping shape its future.
4. *Note: Critical thinking is often misrepresented as cynical, pessimistic, or “being against things”. In this class it should rather be understood in terms of healthy skepticism with received wisdom recognizing the world could / should be otherwise; ceaseless, piercing questioning of status quo “common sense”; trying to make important linkages and connections; recognizing and evaluating multiple perspectives and the values and assumptions underlying

Tentative Schedule of Classes

“The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.” I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for