
**COURSE OUTLINE
INDIGENOUS GEOGRAPHIES**

Meeting Time: Mondays/Thursdays—10:00-11:20 AM, Cornett Building B111

NOTE ON COURSE DELIVERY: This is an **IN -PERSON** course. All course activities will occur in-person. However, I will be running a Zoom room alongside in-person classes to accommodate students who may be feeling ill or cannot physically be on campus for a given meeting. If there

University of Washington, with whom I have been co-developing the ideas and themes behind this course since 2021.

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

We do not have a textbook in this course. I feel that there is not a single textbook that can authoritatively speak about Indigenous geographies, and at any rate, I do not want to burden you with extra financial cost for a textbook that we would use very infrequently. I would much rather highlight the work of Indigenous scholars and activists who are deeply engaged with this work. Therefore, our required texts will consist of journal articles, book chapters, zines and other publications written primarily by Indigenous authors and communities. I will post all required and supplemental

A	8	85-89%	Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-
A-	7	80-84%	

I recognize that for some students, “in-person” participation may be anxiety inducing and difficult to do in a large class setting. Therefore, there are alternative ways for students to show that they are engaging with the course material and the lectures/guest lectures without having to do so in a way that can make them uncomfortable. Based on practices done by Dr. Max Liboiron (Memorial University), these alternatives take the form of class participation roles—such as volunteering to be an official note taker for a given class, developing seminar discussion questions, e-mailing an author of a text with your reaction to their writing, contributing news stories on current events related to course topics in class, and other activities. I will discuss these roles more in detail in class.

Final Project (25%)

The final assignment in this course will be the final paper/project, which will be due during the finals period. This assignment, which will be based on a topic chosen by the student and approved by me, will critically engage with the chosen topic and will seek to generate unique and/or interesting insights that the student uncovers through their research. You will have two choices on how you want to do the final project:

Term Paper: If you choose this option, you will write a 10-12 page term paper that will be based on a course topic. My hope is that you will produce a paper that can serve as the nucleus of an undergraduate honours thesis or other capstone product in your undergraduate careers.

Creative Project: If writing a paper is not your forte, you may choose to pursue a creative project, such as an artistic endeavour or other form of knowledge production, my hope is that your work will be of a similar professional quality. In the past, students have made quilts, created maps, developed podcasts, and have even created a board game!

You must complete the final paper/project to pass the course. If you do not submit a final paper/final project, you will receive a grade of N.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/
- Geography Department Chair: geogchair@uvic.ca
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@uvic.ca

BRIGHTSPACE

We will have a Brightspace page for the course, where you can find a schedule and download

Late take-home work is subject to a 10% penalty per day late (inclusive of Sunday-Saturday). So, for example, if an assignment is due on Sunday, if a student turns it in the following Sunday it will be subject to a 70% points penalty.

Midterms are subject to a 20% penalty per day late (inclusive of Sunday-Saturday).

The final assignment will also be subject to a late penalty—we will discuss this in class towards the end of the semester.

If you have a reason (known medical condition, a pile-up of due assignments on other courses, athletics teams, job interview, religious obligations etc.) for being unable to complete work on time, then flexibility is possible—please let me know and we can talk about it. Additionally, given the circumstances surrounding the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, if there are ongoing medical, personal, or other issues that are likely to affect your work all semester, then please contact me to discuss the situation. I am willing to make accommodations and be flexible if it will help you be successful in this course.

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE

Attendance is very vital. You will do best in the course if you are attending class meetings and engaging with the material. If you miss classes, it will be more difficult for you to receive a good grade in the course, as you'll be missing key insights and discussions that can help you do a good job in your reflections/midterm/final project. It also goes a long way towards building a community in the classroom!

Of course, emergencies and other things come up, and I am quite understanding of this. We have both in-person and Zoom options to attend class if you can't make it to campus, but if you cannot attend at all for a given reason, please reach out to me—I am usually quite willing to excuse absences. **If you don't let me know, this is OK too, but my policy is to allow up to 4 unexcused absences in a term without it affecting a student's grade.**

If you have 5 or more absences without letting me know beforehand or soon afterward, you cannot earn a grade higher than a B- (70%) in the course, regardless of your performance in the rest of the course.

A reminder---you can attend class in-person or via Zoom!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php.

Specific Policies for this course:

- **Assignments:** You must complete all assignments yourself, without any external help or communication, unless the instructions specifically say something else.
Your written assignments should be your own original work. You should follow a consistent citation style (e.g. MLA, APA, Chicago) to cite the ideas and words of your research sources.
You are free to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in. This also goes for using any University writing resources. Limited editing of your assignments is permitted but the overwhelming majority of what you turn in must be your own.
- **Use of AI:** We will discuss the use of AI, early in the course. In general, in a specialized course such as this, using AI will probably not be as beneficial as you might think. It is

Office hours (First Peoples' House)

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This includes: IACE, student lounge, computer room and shared lunch room.

Closed for lunch 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m

Meet with an IACE staff member

If you would like to meet with an IACE staff member at the First Peoples House, you can come by and talk to the IACE receptionist in FPH Room 140 or call or email the staff member ahead to make appointment at iceservices@uvic.ca or 250-853-3730.

What IACE does:

IACE's primary responsibility is supporting Indigenous students, but the office has also taken on many other roles, such as:

- Managing the [First Peoples House/Link Act BMC 0 0 1 rg180.48 610.78.m\(\)Tj0954RO!H5AcN1a6Pn](#)

The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program. For academic advising-related questions, students in the Geography Department are also encouraged to meet with the Geography Undergraduate Advisor (geogadvising@uvic.ca) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#). International students are also encouraged to contact the International Student Liaison in Geography (Prof. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood, cindyann@uvic.ca), who can assist in making connections with other international and domestic students in the Geography Department and share opportunities for getting involved in departmental activities more broadly.

WELL-BEING:

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services* ~~Confidential (Data BC30) (2) 947 (4) 1123 (at) uvic.ca~~

WEEKLY CALENDAR

WEEK	DATE	
1	9/7	<p>Syllabus Day and Introduction to Class</p> <p>Reading: This course outline! 😊</p>

What Are Indigenous Geographies?

Reading:

2 9/11 & 9/14

		Trask, Haunani-Kay. "Feminism and Indigenous Hawaiian nationalism." <i>Signs: Journal of women in culture and society</i> 21, no. 4 (1996): 906-916.
5	10/2 & 10/5	<p>Indigenous Geographies Encounters (Overcomes) The Colonial Gaze</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Chapter 1, Chang, David A. <i>The world and all the things upon it: Native Hawaiian geographies of exploration</i>. U of Minnesota Press, 2016.</p> <p>Smith, Jen Rose. "'Exceeding Beringia': Upending universal human events and wayward transits in Arctic spaces." <i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i> 39, no. 1 (2021): 158-175.</p> <p>MIDTERM #1 DUE 10/8</p>
6	10/9 & 10/12	<p>Indigenous Cartographies 10/12-Outdoor seminar @ Cadboro Bay</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>'Gendered Geographies and Narrative Markings' in Goeman, Mishuana. <i>Mark my words: Native women mapping our nations</i>. U of Minnesota Press, 2013.</p> <p>21/11/21 - 21/11/21</p> <p>Indigenous cartographic traditions and innovations." <i>American Indian Culture and Research Journal</i> 42, no. 3 (2018): 11-26.</p>
7	10/16 & 10/19	<p>Contact Zones between Indigenous geographies and Geography</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Louis, Renee Pualani, and Zoltán Grossman. "Indigenous methods and research with Indigenous communities." <i>Research ethics for human geography: A handbook for students</i> (2020): 143.</p> <p>Mychalejko, Cyril, and Ramor Ryan. "US military funded mapping project in Oaxaca." <i>Z Magazine</i> 22, no. 4 (2009).</p> <p>'Letters from Oaxaca' in Wainwright, Joel. <i>Geopiracy: Oaxaca, militant empiricism, and geographical thought</i>. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.</p>

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8 10/23 &

	11/13-11/15	READING BREAK—No class 11/13
11	11/16	<p>Indigenous Health Geographies</p> <p>Final Paper/Project Proposals Due 11/20</p> <p><i>11/16-Guest Speaker, Dr. Alexandra Giancarlo (University of Calgary)</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Richmond, Chantelle, and Elana Nightingale. "Introduction to special section: Geographies of Indigenous health and wellness." <i>The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien</i> 65, no. 1 (2021): 4-7.</p> <p>Richmond, Chantelle. "The relatedness of people, land, and health: stories from Anishinabe Elders." <i>Determinants of Indigenous peoples' health: Beyond the social</i> (2018): 167-185.</p> <p>Richmond, Chantelle AM, and Katie Big-Canoe. "The geographies of Indigenous health." In <i>Routledge handbook of health geography</i>, pp. 179-188. Routledge, 2018.</p> <p>MIDTERM #2 DUE 11/19</p>
12	11/20 & 11/23	<p>Outer Space</p> <p><i>11/23—Outdoor seminar @ Mt. Tolmie</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Gorman, Alice. "The cultural landscape of interplanetary space." <i>Journal of Social Archaeology</i> 5, no. 1 (2005): 85-107.</p> <p>Marshall, Alan. "Development and imperialism in space." <i>Space Policy</i> 11, no. 1 (1995): 41-52.</p> <p>Smiles, D, 2020. "The Settler Logics of (Outer) Space." <i>Society+Space Blog</i>. https://www.societyandspace.org/articles/the-settler-logics-of-outer-space</p> <p>'The Space NDN's Star Map' by Lou Cornum</p>
13	11/27 & 11/30	<p>Geographic Indigenous Futures</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Ramírez, Margaret Marietta. "Take the houses back/take the land back: Black and Indigenous urban futures in Oakland." <i>Urban Geography</i> 41, no.</p>

		5 (2020): 682-693. Smiles, Niyokamigaabaw Deondre. "Reflections on the (continued and future) importance of Indigenous geographies." <i>Dialogues in Human Geography</i> (2023).
14	12/4	Course Wrap-up <i>12/4 class meeting @ Cadboro Bay</i> (No readings this week!)
Finals	TBA	Final Papers/Projects Due

DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. **Any changes will be communicated ahead of time and will not result in extra burden to students.**

FACULTY FEEDBACK AND RESPONSE TIME:

The following list will give you an idea of my int

mail communications or in person (i.e. Dear Deondre), but please do address me by name. If you want to use an honorific, "Dr. Smiles" works fine in all communications.

When e-mailing me, please include "GEOG 318" in the subject line so that I know it is regarding class. The exception is if you are messaging me on Brightspace, it will automatically let me know.

DISCUSSION, COMMUNICATION AND WRITING GUIDELINES

The following are general expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- Writing style: Written assignments should have a professional tone. For discussions and other communication there is no need to act as if you were writing a research paper, but you should still remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. If you want feedback on your writing, I am always happy to provide it.
- Tone and civility: Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online or in-person. Homophobic, racist, xenophobic and sexist language is not tolerated in my class. If you are in violation of this policy, I will ask you to meet with me in office hours to discuss your conduct in class. A second violation will result in my recommendation that you drop the class.
- There will be opportunities for collaborative work in class. Any disputes or conflicts among members of a group of an academic nature (i.e. workload, participation) that are escalating without signs of resolving should be brought to me immediately—do not