

History 2210 F
Indigenous Peoples and Canadian History
Fall 2023

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This is a **draft** syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description

Canadian history has relied on nationalist interpretations that reduce the role of Indigenous People. This course challenges these ideas by demonstrating the permanency of Indigenous Peoples and the continuity of their beliefs, practices, and political systems both in and around the Canadian nation-state. Topics discussed include the Northwest Resistance, the World Wars, and the *Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 History course at the 1000-level or above OR 1.0 Anthropology course at the 1000-level or above OR [Indigenous Studies 1020](#).

Course Level Learning Outcomes

- Understand concepts of Indigenous sovereignty and nationalism at the time of Canadian Confederation, how these were considered within foundational documents including the *Constitution Act* (1867), and Indigenous responses to Confederation.
- Understand how the relationship between the Government of Canada and Indigenous Peoples changed throughout time through legislation including the *Indian Act*, considering its passage in 1876 and comprehensive amendments in 1951.
- Consider Indigenous involvement and responses to major events that have defined Canadian history including the Northwest Resistance, the World Wars, the Siege of Kanestake (Oka Crisis), and the establishment of Nunavut.
- Decentralize the narrative of Canadian history away from ‘key events’ by also considering the long-history of specific themes including Indigenous involvement in resource extraction, media representation, or gender and sexuality.
- Recognize the significance of major commissions that have considered the relationship between the Government of Canada and Indigenous Peoples including the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- Understand how Indigenous sovereignty and land-tenure has been challenged by the assertion of Canadian sovereignty through discussion of treaty relationships, the reserve system, and land-back movements.

- Recognize how the practice of history has actively denied the involvement of Indigenous Peoples through exclusion from academia and the legitimization of specific types of knowledge over others.

Methods of Evaluation:

- **Participation:** Ongoing – 20%
- **Primary Source Analysis #1:** Week 4 – 20%
- **Essay Proposal:** Week 6 – 10%
- **Primary Source Analysis #2:** Week 8 – 20%
- **Final Essay:** Week 12 – 30%

Participation: Students will be required to submit a written question or comment at the end of each lecture which will count as their participation grade. These questions will inform discussion for the class tutorials, which will also contribute to participation marks.

Primary Source Analysis: Students will be given a list of 3 primary sources from the 19th century for the first analysis, and 3 primary sources from the 20th century for the second analysis. The first Primary Source Analysis will be due Week 4 and the second Primary Source Analysis will be due Week 8. Students only need to select 1 of the 3 primary sources for each analysis. They will consider authorship, perspective, and the narrative that is being presented. Each analysis will be 3 pages long.

Essay Proposal and Final Essay: Students will write an 6-8-page essay on a subject relating to Indigenous Peoples and Canadian History based on a theme in the 20th century. This will include at least four peer-reviewed secondary sources and will argue a clearly stated thesis.

Attendance: Attendance at eight out of twelve lectures is required to pass this course.

Late Assignments: The penalty for late work without an approved accommodation from Academic Counselling is 2% a day, including weekends, with a maximum deduction of 20%. After that point assignments will not be accepted.

Course Materials

All readings will be available through OWL. No additional purchases will be required.

Course Schedule and Readings:

- Week One: Indigenous Governance and Territoriality
- Week Two: Indigenous and European Relations Pre-Confederation
- Week Three: The Reserve System, The Numbered Treaties, and the *Indian Act*
- Week Four: The Establishment of the Métis Nation
- Week Five: Participation in Armed Conflicts
- Week Six: Resource Extraction and the Labour Economy
- Week Seven: The Urban Indigenous Experience
- Week Eight: Indigenous Political Organizing and the Red Power Movement
- Week Nine: Indigenous Title, Comprehensive Land Claims, and Political Self-Governance

- Week Ten: The Siege of Kanesatake and the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples
- Week Eleven: The Establishment of Nunavut (1999)
- Week Twelve: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and Declarations of Canadian Genocide

Additional Statements

Use of Generative AI Tools: All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

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