



United College
University of Waterloo

“Our College is situated on lands deeply connected to Indigenous peoples who have historically lived, and who currently live, in this territory. We recognize that these lands have always been the source of learning for Indigenous peoples. As an educational institution, we are committed to respecting the traditional knowledge that Indigenous peoples have derived from these lands and learning from their experiences on them.”

United College Land Acknowledgement,

<https://uwaterloo.ca/united-college/about-united-college/mission-values>

Course Syllabus

Title: Indigenous Worldviews

Course: INDG/RS 318

When: Tuesdays, 11:30am- 2:20pm

Where: UTD, Alumni Hall B- 201

Office Hours: By appointment, UC 231

Required Textbooks, Readings and Resources

Wemigwans, Jennifer. (2018). *A digital bundle: promoting and protecting Indigenous knowledge online*. University of Regina Press.

Additional readings will be made available through LEARN.

Course Description

This course introduces students to the integral role and place of spiritual practices and ceremonies in the everyday experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Course materials will be supplemented by visits with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Storytellers, as well as integration of ceremonial and land-based practices.

Through storytelling, reading, discussion, and writing, this course explores themes of fundamental human concern for First Peoples. It considers oral traditions as integral to broader, culturally defined systems of knowledge and explores the role of sacred stories in traditional

and contemporary societies. This includes discussion on the role of stories as vehicles for encoding and transmitting knowledge about the people, the environment, the culture and history. Stories analyzed include creation stories, trickster tales, oral historical accounts, and stories relating to natural phenomena.

Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to recognize the importance of oral history to First Peoples and the vast knowledge transmitted through various storytelling channels. Students will develop ethical protocols that respect the First Peoples approach to knowledge formation, ownership, and control of sacred information. Students will demonstrate through storytelling, foundations integral to the Indigenous Oral Tradition.

Assignments/Grading

Late submissions of assignments will result in appropriate penalization. Missed Assignments will receive a mark of 0. Students must communicate any issues with assignments to the instructor. Most assignments invite creative submission and digital works. Land-Based Learning is part of this course and some schedule changes may occur to respect environmental changes.

Ethics Assignment	Formal, written submission	10%
Reflections (3)	Individual feedback through online discussion forum	30%
Creative Outline Oral Presentation Peer Grading	3-part final assignment	40%
Video Critique	Creative Submission	20%

Course Outline

Week 1 Tuesday, January 9	Elders Traditional Opening	Dr. Dan & Dr. Marylou Smoke
Week 2 Jan 16	Foundations	Reflection Due
Week 3 Jan 23	7 Grandfather Teachings and OCAP	Tobacco Ties
Week 4 Jan 30	Grandmother's Teachings	Online-Making Bannock/Scone
Week 5 Feb 6	Winter Stories	Ethics Assignment Due

Week 6 Feb 13	Sacred Research Methods	Class Activity Working with Medicines REFLECTION DUE: ONLINE DISCUSSION
Reading Week 7 Feb 20		
Week 8 Feb 27	2-Spirited Stories	Class Online Reflection Due
Week 9 Mar 5	Spring Tales Laughter is Medicine	Class Online- Dr. Pucan's Sugarbush
Week 10 Mar 12	Songs as Vessels	Class Online- Video Critique Due
Week 11 Mar 19	Laughter is Medicine	Nanabush.ca
Week 12 Mar 26	Class Presentations	Creative Outline Due
Week 13 April 2	Class Presentations	

Policies

Academic integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals.

Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.

Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within the [Office of Indigenous Relations](#).

For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the [CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory](#).

Declaring absences

For all of the following categories of absence students are responsible for getting in touch with their course instructors as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations for missed course component(s). The course instructor will determine how the missed work is accommodated. Absences will be accommodated according to the [accommodation guidelines section of the undergraduate calendar](#).

If you are unable to complete a course component due to [self-declared COVID-related reasons](#) or [a two-day short-term absence](#) then you should submit a self-declaration of absence through [Quest](#).

If your absence is due to an [illness not pandemic-related](#), then a [UW Verification of Illness form](#), completed by a health professional, must be uploaded and submitted through the [Verification of Illness or Extenuating Circumstances Process](#). The VIF is the only acceptable documentation for an absence due to illness. Do not submit the VIF or any other medical documentation to your instructors, teaching assistants, or other course personnel.

If your absence is due to other [extenuating circumstances](#) (e.g., bereavement), then you must submit all documentation related to the absence (e.g., obituary) through the [Verification of Illness or Extenuating Circumstances Process](#).

Submission through the VIF or Extenuating Circumstances System, once approved, will notify your instructors of your absence. However, you are responsible for contacting instructors to discuss accommodation arrangements.

Accommodating religious and spiritual observances

The University of Waterloo has a duty to [accommodate religious, spiritual, and other creed-based beliefs and practices](#) under the Ontario Human Rights Commission (2015) [Policy on preventing discrimination based on creed](#). Students may seek accommodations for missed course components on religious, spiritual, or other creed grounds. In such cases the students should please consult the instructor within two weeks of the announcement of the due date for which the accommodation is being sought.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed.

On campus supports

For counselling (individual or group) reach out to [Campus Wellness and Counselling Services](#). Counselling Services strives to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

Other on-campus supports

- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information
- [Empower Me](#): to access create an account on the Dialogue mobile app or on the web at www.studentcare.ca/dialogue

- [Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Centre](#) - supports all members of the University of Waterloo campus community who have experienced or been impacted by sexual violence.

Off campus supports

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300
- [St. Mary's Hospital](#) - 519-744-3311
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- 988 Suicide Crisis Helpline: a 24/7 urgent mental health care three-digit helpline
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual (@SLGBTQIA+) and questioning kids, teens, adults, and their families in Waterloo Region. Phone: 519-884-0000 or e-mail ok2bme@caminowellbeing.ca
- [Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region](#) - offers individual counselling to people of all genders, 16+ who have been sexually assaulted at any point in their lives. As well as short-term support for family members or friends of sexual assault survivors. Also, information and referrals

More information about resources and supports for students can be found online in on the [Faculty of Arts Student Support](#) page.

Anti-racism statement

The University of Waterloo does not tolerate racism or any other form of discrimination and expects campus community members to contribute to a culture where all members feel safe and valued. Any member of the campus community who has experienced racism or discrimination at the University is encouraged to review available processes for addressing their concerns under Policy 33 – Ethical Behaviour and to seek guidance from the Equity Office via email at equity@uwaterloo.ca or through their [website](#).

Academic freedom at the University of Waterloo

[Policy 33 -- Ethical Behaviour](#) states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively

as possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6

Intellectual Property

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo.

Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein are used to enhance a student’s educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner’s permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for written permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. It is also forbidden to share the material listed above from a previous iteration of a course with a student presently enrolled in the course, unless you have the instructor’s written permission to do so. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Pronouns and chosen or preferred first name

Students can verify their chosen or preferred first name and pronouns by logging into [WatIAM](#). Your chosen or preferred first name and pronouns listed in WatIAM will be used across campus (e.g., in LEARN, Quest, WaterlooWorks, WatCard, etc). Your legal first name will always be used on certain official documents, such as diplomas and transcripts.

Students can view and change their pronouns in [Quest](#). Should you choose to include your pronouns in Quest, your pronouns will be accessible by instructors, advisors, and employees with access to Quest. If no pronoun is added, the field in Quest will remain blank.