



IES*3020 - Right Relations: Reconciliation, Decolonialization, & the Environment

Fall 2026 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

This course will examine how colonial and neo-colonial governments have interacted with Indigenous societies in Canada. Particularly, the effects of colonialism on Indigenous cultural and economic autonomy and self-determination. The impact of colonialism, treaties and land claims on environmental stewardship is highlighted.

Prerequisite(s): ANTH*2660 or HIST*2090

Restriction(s): Restricted to students in BIESP, BIESPC.

Department(s): School of Environmental Sciences

Course Description

What factors have contributed to and continue to maintain environmental stewardship biased in favour of western knowledge systems and values? What are the potential impacts of Indigenous resurgence and self-determination and reconciliation? This course will examine how colonial and neo-colonial governments have interacted with Indigenous societies in Canada and the consequences for Indigenous well-being and relationships with the land. The profound and continuing impact of colonialism on Indigenous cultural and economic autonomy and self-determination is highlighted. Key factors and events that have influenced attitudes to Indigenous knowledge values and practices from pre-contact, colonization and the modern era will be discussed. Students will study selected topics in depth through a program of critical readings and participation in seminars.

Lecture Schedule

Mon 7pm-9:50pm in MCKN*059 (9/10 to 12/22)

Instructor Information

Susan Chiblow

Email: schiblow@uoguelph.ca

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Unsettling Canada: A national wake-up call	Arthur Manuel & Grand Chief Ronald M. Derrickson	978-1-77113-176-6

Learning Resources

Course Resources

The books can be found at the library.

Asch, Michael, John Borrows, and James Tully (Editors). *Resurgence and Reconciliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Earth Teachings*. University of Toronto Press, 2018.

Borrows, John. *Law's Indigenous Ethics*. University of Toronto Press, 2019.

Borrows, John. *The Right Relationship: Reimagining the Implementation of Historical Treaties*. University of Toronto Press, 2007.

Daschuk, James. *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Indigenous Life*. University of Regina Press, 2019.

Joseph, B.. *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act: Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality*. Page Two Books, 2018.

Krasowski, Sheldon. *No Surrender: The Land Remains Indigenous*. University of Regina Press, 2019,

Manuel, Arthur. *Unsettling Canada: A National Wake-Up Call*. Between the Lines, 2015.

Manuel, Arthur and Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson. *The Reconciliation Manifesto: Recovering the Land, Rebuilding the Economy*. Lorimer, 2018.

Ross, R. *Indigenous Healing: Exploring Traditional Paths*. Penguin Canada, 2014

Silman, J. (ed.) *Enough is Enough: Aboriginal Women Speak Out*. Women's Press, 1992.

Sioui, G.F. *Huron-Wendat: The Heritage of the Circle*. UBC Press, 2000.

Talaga, Tanya. *All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward*. House of Anansi Press, 2018.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. *Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Volume One: Summary: Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*. Lorimer, 2015.

Vowel, Chelsea. *Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit issues in Canada*. HighWater Press, 2016.

Williston, Byron (Editor). *Environmental Ethics for Canadians, 2nd Ed*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

Cost of Textbooks and Learning Resources

Textbook / Learning Resource	Required / Recommended	Cost
Unsettling Canada: A national wake-up call	Required	\$32.95

Library Course Reserve (Ares)

For this course, you will be required to access course reserve materials through the University of Guelph McLaughlin Library. To access these items, select **Ares** on the navbar in CourseLink. Note that you will need your Central Login ID and password in order to access items on reserve.

For further instructions on accessing reserve resources, visit How to Get Course Reserve Materials (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/find/course-reserves-ares/>).

If at any point during the course you have difficulty accessing reserve materials, please contact the e-Learning Operations and Reserve Services staff at:

Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 53621 | Email: libres2@uoguelph.ca | Location: McLaughlin Library, First Floor, University of Guelph

Course Learning Outcomes

1. By the end of this course you will be able to:
2. Describe the current and historical role of the Canadian state on relationships between Indigenous nations and settlers and its impact on Indigenous environmental stewardship.
3. Evaluate how the legal and bureaucratic structures of Canadian colonial and neo-colonial governance impact Indigenous well-being, sustainability and relations with the land. .
4. Discuss the diversity of approaches to and perspectives on decolonialization and reconciliation and the implications of this diversity for Indigenous-settler relations and environmental stewardship.
5. Articulate your understanding and practice of reconciliation.
6. Reflect on the implications of the Indigenous resurgence, self-determination and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report for Indigenous environmental stewardship.
7. Demonstrate practical critical thinking, communication and research skills required to participate effectively in discussions of environmental and social issues.

Course Level Learning Outcomes

- Critical and Creative Thinking (depth and breadth of understanding)
- Literacy (information, quantitative, technological, visual)
- Global Understanding (sense of historical development, civic knowledge and engagement, intercultural competence)
- Communicating (oral, written, reading)

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Topic	Activities	Due
Mon	9/14	Class 1: Lecture	Course syllabus & assignments; introduction to terminology; history of Indigenous settler relationships & its importance for environmental stewardship	
Mon	9/21	Class 2: Lecture	Impacts of colonial & neo-colonial governments • Land claims • Sixties scoop • Child welfare • Urbanization • Truth and Reconciliation Commission	
Mon	9/28	Class 3: Lecture	Recap –Indigenous science • Indigenous Governance • Treaties • Indigenous Nationhood Research Essay Prospectus	
Mon	10/5	Research Essay Prospectus	Work on research essay prospectus	November 7
Mon	10/12	Thanksgiving Holiday		
Mon	10/19	Class 4: Guest Lecture	Decolonization	
Mon	10/26	Class 5: Lecture	Indigenous resurgence; self-determination; TRC	
Mon	11/2	Nov 13, 14, 15	Field Trip	
Mon	11/9	Nov 13, 14, 15	Field Trip	
Mon	11/16	No Class		
Mon	11/23	No Class		
Mon	11/30	Last Class	Recap of terminology, history, legal structures, Indigenous resurgence, reconciliation Feast	
Mon	12/7	No Class		



Mon 12/14 No Class

Mon 12/21 No Class

Lab / Seminar Schedule

Field Trip

This field trip will be outside.

Assessment Breakdown

{NOTE: instructor can add another row by hitting "TAB" button when they are at the end of the row}

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Assignment # 1 Refelction	10%	September 19
Assignment # 2 Reflection	10 %	October 3
Assignment # 3 Reflection	10%	October 18
Assignment #4 Research Essay Prospectus	10%	November 7
Assignment # 5 Reflection	10%	November 21
Assignment # 6 Research Essay Final	30%	December 5
Participation	20%	December 5

Grading Schemes

All assignments are double spaced.

Refelctions are one page

Research Essay Prospectus is 1 to 2 pages

Research Essay is 8 to 10 pages.

Grading rubric will be discussed in class.

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Fall 2026 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: December 04

After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

Course Grading Policies

Submission of Assignments

Assignments are to be submitted in Course Link in the drop box.

Late Assignment

Please reach out to me if you are going to be late submitting an assignment otherwise **late assignments will be deducted 25% per day (including weekends) with a mark of zero being assigned after 2 days late.**

Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct

regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 business days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/>).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly. e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.



Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)