

**INDIGST 1A03: Introduction to Indigenous Studies**  
**McMaster Indigenous Studies Program**  
**McMaster University**  
**Fall 2022**

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Professor: Dr. Allan Downey  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1pm-2:30pm  
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Teaching Assistants:  
TBD

Lectures: Tuesdays 1:30pm-3:20pm, Thursdays 12:30pm-1:20pm  
Classroom: PGCLL M21

McMaster University is on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabeg Nations. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties, is within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon wampum agreement and is directly adjacent to Haldiman Treaty territory.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to be an interdisciplinary introduction to Indigenous peoples and examine specific themes in the social, historical, political, cultural and epistemological dimensions of Indigenous life in North America. Informed by a selection of historical readings, Indigenous oral histories, and worldviews, topics include pre-contact society, “contact” experiences, changing Indigenous landscapes and borderlands, government regulation of Indigenous peoples, and political activism.

**Course Objectives:**

The goal of this course is for students to gain an understanding of several selected themes in Indigenous Studies while contextualizing them within the different perspectives of Indigenous peoples and nations. Students will gain a greater understanding of Indigenous-non-Indigenous relations while developing their own interpretive reading and writing skills through the course assignments. Furthermore, students will be introduced to and gain a greater understanding of Indigenous oral histories, worldviews, and perspectives.

**Format:**

The regular class format will consist of an in-person 110min lecture on Tuesdays and a 50min lecture on Thursdays. Avenue to Learn (A2L) will be used throughout the course to provide students with details of the assignments.

**Required Text/ Video Game:**

- Thomas King, *The Inconvenient Indian* (Toronto: Anchor Canada, 2013)

**OR**

- Never Alone (Kisima Ingitchuna) Ki Edition for iPhone/ Android (also available on PlayStation, Xbox, Mac, or Windows).

*The Inconvenient Indian* will be available for purchase at the bookstore by October or can be found in the library on three-hour reserve. Used copies of the book can also be found online at [abebooks.ca](http://abebooks.ca) or [amazon.ca](http://amazon.ca).

The video game Never Alone (Kisima Ingitchuna) Ki Edition can be purchased for your iPhone or Android device using the app store or Google Play Store. It is also available for Mac or Windows computers on steam (<http://store.steampowered.com/app/295790/>) and on gaming consoles through the PlayStation or Xbox stores.

There is no required textbook for this course but for students new to Indigenous history the following books are recommended:

Chelsea Vowel, *Indigenous Writes* (Winnipeg: Portage and Main Press, 2016).

Yale D. Belanger, *Ways of Knowing: An Introduction to Native Studies in Canada*, 2nd Edition (Toronto: Nelson Education, 2014).

**Course Requirements:**

**Grade Distribution:**

Work Sheet (Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>): 20%  
Reading Reflection (4-5 page: Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>): 25%  
Indigenous Methodologies Essay (5 pages: Friday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>): 25%  
Final Exam: 30%

**Assignments:**

Students will have three major assignments for INDIGST 1A03 that will encourage them to move beyond our course themes and to consider different approaches to Indigenous Studies as well as Indigenous-non-Indigenous relations with an emphasis on Indigenous perspectives. These assignments will include a **Work Sheet Assignment, Reading Reflection, and an Indigenous Methodologies Essay**. All essays are required to use APA, MLA, or the Chicago Manual of Style for footnote or endnote citations and include a bibliography.

Essays will be handed in using the Avenue to Learn assignment drop box. The format of your assignments should be double-spaced in 12-point font (Times New Roman) with conventional margins.

***Work Sheet Assignment (Due: Thursday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>):*** After reading the article “Land as Pedagogy” by Leanne Simpson students will complete a worksheet with several questions. More detail will be provided on A2L.

***Reading Reflection (Due: Friday, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>):*** After selecting a weekly theme from the course syllabus and reading/viewing its corresponding readings and/or videos (excluding Land as Pedagogy by Leanne Simpson), students will provide a **4-5 page** critical analysis reflection of the readings. More detail will be provided on A2L.

***Indigenous Methodologies Reflection (Due: Friday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>):*** After reading ***The Inconvenient Indian*** by Thomas King **or** completing the video game ***Never Alone (Kisima Ingitchuna) Ki Edition***, students will provide a **5-page** reflection examining the use of the book/ video game as an effective medium for sharing Indigenous methodologies, storytelling, and history. More detail will be provided on A2L.

### **Late Policy:**

Assignments are to be handed in on time on the specified dates. Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day (including weekends) to a maximum of 30%. Failure to complete all assignments will result in a failing grade in the course.

### **Final Exam:**

There will be a final exam for this course during the exam period as scheduled by the registrar’s office.

### **Students with Special Needs:**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. [Student Accessibility Services](#) can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### **Academic Integrity:**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity), located at [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **PLAGIARISM DETECTION:**

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **A2L ON-LINE ELEMENT:**

In this course we will be using A2L. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **Request for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work:**

In the event of an absence for medical or other reason, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.”

### **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous, or Spiritual Observances**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### **Content and Evaluation Scheme:**

In the event of extraordinary circumstances, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change by the professor. The university reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## Course Schedule:

### Week 1

Tues Sept 6 Lecture: Course Introduction

Thurs Sept 8: Lecture: It All Began in a World Above the Clouds: Creation Stories and Indigenous Societies on Turtle Island

### Week 2

Tues Sept 13 Lecture: "Life Lived Like a Story": Indigenous Oral History and Worldviews

Thurs Sept 15 Lecture: Teachings from the Land (Ecological Knowledge Film)

#### Readings:

- Read Erin Hanson, "Oral Traditions." **Online.** [https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/oral\\_traditions/](https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/oral_traditions/)
- Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, "Land as Pedagogy: Nishnaabeg intelligence and Rebellious Transformation" *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society* vol. 3, no. 3 (2014): 1-25. **Online.** <https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/des/article/view/22170/17985>

### Week 3

Tues Sept 20 Lecture: International Indigenous Relations Part 1

Thurs Sept 22 Lecture: International Indigenous Relations Part 2

#### Readings:

- Hodinohso:ni Governance & the Great Law of Peace (39:39min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DaNMtVANsA>
- Alan Ojig Corbiere "The Underlying Importance of Wampum Belts" (52min). **Online.** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wb-RftTCQ\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wb-RftTCQ_8)

### Week 4

Tues Sept 27 Lecture: Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner (Film)

Thurs Sept 29 Lecture: Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner (Film)

**Work Sheet Assignments due by 11:59pm on Thursday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>.**

## Week 5

Tues Oct 4 Lecture: Violence on the Land (Part 1)

Thurs Oct 6 Lecture: Violence on the Land (Part 2)

## Week 6

Fall Recess: **Monday Oct 10<sup>th</sup>- Sunday Oct 16<sup>th</sup>**

## Week 7

Tues Oct 18 Lecture: Wings on the Horizon: Contact, Forging New Relationships (Trade), and Beginning Colonization (Part 1)

Thurs Oct 20 Lecture: Wings on the Horizon: Contact, Forging New Relationships (Trade), and Beginning Colonization (Part 2)

### Readings:

- Wendy Wickwire, "To See Ourselves as the Other's Other: Nlaka'pamux Contact Narratives" *Canadian Historical Review* 75, no. 1 (March 1994): 1-20. **Online (Library)**
- Listen to Louis Bird, "First Contact" (all recordings). **Online.**  
<http://www.ourvoices.ca/index/ourvoices-story-action/id.0114>
- Sylvia Van Kirk, "Women in Between': Indian Women in Fur Trade Society in Western Canada," *Canadian Historical Association Historical Papers*, vol. 12, no. 1 (1977), 30-46. **Online (Library)**
- Treaty Relations and Two Row Companion- Conversations in Cultural Fluency #5 (36min). **Online.**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwTljDzodi4>

## Week 8

Tues Oct 25 Lecture: The Skyworld: Indigenous Spirituality and Missionaries (Part 1)

Thurs Oct 27 Lecture: The Skyworld: Indigenous Spirituality and Missionaries (Part 2)

### Readings:

- Susan Neylan, "Longhouses, Schoolrooms, and Workers' Cottages: Nineteenth-Century Protestant Missions to the Tsimshian and the Transformation of Class Through Religion," *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* Vol. 11, issue 1 (2000): 51-86 **Online (Library)**
- Susan Sleeper-Smith, "Women, Kin, and Catholicism: New Perspectives on the Fur Trade," *Ethnohistory* 47, no. 2 (2000) 423-452. **Online**

(Library)

Reading Reflection due by 11:59pm on Friday, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>

### Week 9

**Tues Nov 1 Lecture: Forging New Borderlands: Appropriating Indigenous Spaces and Treaties (Part 1)**

**Thurs Nov 3 Lecture: Forging New Borderlands: Appropriating Indigenous Spaces and Treaties (Part 2)**

**Readings:**

- J.R. Miller, "Compact, Contract, and Covenant: The Evolution of Indian Treaty-Making" in Susan Neylan and Ted Binnema, ed., *New Histories for Old* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2007). **A2L.**
- Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark, "Marked by Fire: Anishinaabe Articulation of Nationhood in Treaty-Making with the United States and Canada" in Brian Hosmer and Larry Nesper, *Tribal Worlds: Critical Studies in American Indian Nation Building* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2013), 111- 140. **A2L.**
- Alan Ojig Corbiere "The Underlying Importance of Wampum Belts" (52min). **Online.** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wb-RftTCQ\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wb-RftTCQ_8)

### Week 10

**Tues Nov 8 Lecture: New Worlds, New Identities: The Métis**

**Thurs Nov 10 Lecture: Settler-Colonialism and Sport**

**Readings:**

- Adam Gaudry, "Métis Are a People, Not a Historical Process" *The Canadian Encyclopedia*. **Online.**  
<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/metis-are-a-people-not-a-historical-process/>
- Olive Dickason, "From 'One Nation' in the Northeast to 'New Nation' in the Northwest: A Look at the Emergence of the Metis" 19-36, in Jacqueline Peterson and Jennifer S.H. Brown, eds., *The New Peoples: Being and Becoming Metis in North America* (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1985). **A2L.**

### Week 11

**Tues Nov 15 Lecture: The "Indian Problem:" Emerging Government Regulation of Indigenous Peoples (Part 1)**

**Thurs Nov 17 Lecture: The “Indian Problem:” Emerging Government Regulation of Indigenous Peoples (Part 2)**

**Readings:**

- Yale D. Belanger, *Ways of Knowing: An Introduction to Native Studies in Canada*, 2nd Edition (Toronto: Nelson Education, 2014), Chapter 5. **A2L.**
- Pamela Palmater, “Genocide, Indian Policy, and Legislated Elimination of Indians in Canada,” *Aboriginal Policy Studies* vol. 3, no. 3 (2014): 27-54. **Online.**  
[https://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/aps/article/view/22225/pdf\\_22](https://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/aps/article/view/22225/pdf_22)

**Week 12**

**Tues Nov 22 Lecture: Shifting Gender and Power (Part 1)**

**Thurs Nov 24 Lecture: Shifting Gender and Power (Part 2)**

**Week 13**

**Tues Nov 29 Lecture: Indigenous Resistance and Self-Determination (Part 1)**

**Thurs Dec 1 Lecture: Indigenous Resistance and Self-Determination (Part 2)**

**Indigenous Methodologies Essay due by 11:59pm Friday, Dec 2nd**

**Week 14**

**Tues Dec 6: Conclusion**

**Thurs Dec 8: No Class (Prepare for Exam)**