



INDIGST 2D03: Traditional Ecological Knowledge
(Cross-listed as: ENVSOCY 2EK3, ANTHROP 2DA3)

Fall 2020
Online course

Instructor: Kitty RLynn, MA
Email: lickersk@mcmaster.ca

Lecture: Online/Virtual, live Timeslot
TBA

TA: Dina Hansen
Email: hansed1@mcmaster.ca

Office: N/A
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course will introduce students to traditional ecological knowledge(TEK). Indigenous people have for generations used their understanding of the world around them to create complex, dynamic systems to sustain themselves and to maintain their cultural knowledge. The students will learn about the relationship of Indigenous people and their environment with TEK being the focus of how that relationship is addressing food security, sustainability and culture.

Learning Objectives

The main goal of this course is for students to gain an understanding of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and the way that modern systems can be influenced by this knowledge.

Learning expectations: (Content includes student feed back):

- What is TEK
- What are some differences between Traditional Indigenous knowledge versus settler knowledge and understanding of environment
- TEK of herbs, medicines and how they relate to food systems, public policy and land management/treatment.
- Spend time in the natural environment and observe ways that ecological knowledge occur in a modern setting
- Food preparation as it relates to TEK
- Medicine preparation, herbs and their uses
- How decolonizing knowledge and TEK fit into modern systems as well as academic research.
- Plant and animal uses



Required Materials and Texts

- Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants*. Minneapolis, Milkweed Editions: 2013.

Class Format

Virtual, meetings via Zoom

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Nature exploration: 10%
2. Writing responses: 60% (4x15%)
3. Discussion 10%
4. TEK Paper 20%

Course Evaluation – Details

- 1. Short writing assignment (10%), due October 23rd**
Exploration of the natural world. Find and choose a plant outside (medicinal, vegetable, weed). Examine and describe. 1-1.5 pages total 10%
- 2. Reflections (4) (60%), due Week 5, week 8, week 10, week 11**
Reflection pieces will be required. Following each guest speaker video a response of 2-3 pages (as a guideline) will be due. 4x15%
- 3. Discussion board (10%), ongoing**
Weekly discussion boards will be posted and respond to the instructor/TA or classmates.
- 4. Final paper (20%), due December 3rd, 2020**
TEK Paper- Modern and traditional practices exist around everything. Find and compare or examine one of those. Examine something specific around TEK that you have been struck by; for example, modern or traditional hunting practices. You can either compare current to historic or choose one era. Examples are things such as; gardening, hunting, fishing, medicines, home building, seasonal changes, climate, food preparation.



Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (September 8-12)

TEK-What is this?

Readings/notes: Review syllabus, goals of the course

Week 2 (September 13 – 19th)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 1, 2, 3

Week 3 (September 20th – 26th)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 4, 5, 6

Week 4 (September 27th – October 3rd)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 7, 8, 9

***Guest speaker this week

Week 5 (October 4th – 10th)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 10, 11, 12

***Reflection #1 due

Week 6 (October 11th – 17th) – Reading break – Enjoy your time!

Week 7 (October 18th – 24th)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 13, 14, 15

***Guest speaker this week

Week 8 (October 25th – 31st)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 16, 17, 18

***Reflection #2 due

Week 9 (November 1st – 7th)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 19, 20, 21

***Guest speaker this week

Week 10 (November 8th – 14th)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 22, 23, 24

***Reflection #3 due

***Guest speaker this week



Week 11 (November 15th – 21st)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 25, 26, 27

***Reflection #4 due

Week 12 (November 22nd – 28th)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 28, 29, 30

Week 13 (November 29th – December 5th)

Readings: Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters 31, 32

*Notes: Assignment 4 due: December 3rd

Week 14 (December 6th – 12th) – Final class

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Please see instructions for individual assignments listed on Avenue to Learn as submission requirements may vary.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F



Late Assignments

Late assignments will be subject to a 5% per day late penalty (includes weekends and holidays) for up to seven (7) days. After this date, no assignments will be accepted and a grade of zero (0) will be applied. Extensions for course work must be approved by the instructor before the due date (see Academic Regulations), and will be granted for illness or emergencies only. Students may be asked to submit supporting documentation for an extension request.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

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

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. 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.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior 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 behavior 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, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

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

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

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

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Courses with an online element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, 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 a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.



Online proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Conduct expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms. Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

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