
ARKY 419 (LEC01)
Indigenous Peoples of the Plains
GFC Hours 3-0
Fall 2023

Instructor:	Dr. Lindsay Amundsen-Meyer	Lecture Location:	EDC 280
Phone:	403-220-6227	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 1:00-1:50 pm
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Office Hours:	Wednesdays 11:30 am–12:30 pm		
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we explore pre-colonial traditional Plains cultures as recorded in ethnographic accounts and First Nations oral traditions. This course will focus on the lifeways of the Blackfoot people (*Niitsitapi*), within whose traditional territory Calgary is located. Blackfoot elders state that their people have lived on the prairies of what is now Alberta, Saskatchewan and Montana since time immemorial. This course will examine Blackfoot lifeways and history through the works of Blackfoot and settler scholars, elders and ethnographers. Readings and visiting speakers will reflect the multiplicity of approaches to understanding the Blackfoot past, including oral histories, traditional knowledge, literature, archaeology and archive-based history. Throughout the course, students will learn the rich history and culture of the Blackfoot people and their relationship to *Siksikaiskahkoyi* (Blackfoot lands). Your journey in this course should be both challenging and rewarding and make us all look differently at our Alberta home.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Explain the merits and biases of ethnohistoric documents, ethnographic accounts, and oral traditions, and know how to apply these basic principles to evaluations of ethnographic accounts of Indigenous peoples around the world.

- 2) Describe the rationale and assumptions behind ethnography, as a foundation for assessing the credibility and trustworthiness of a particular ethnographic study
- 3) Assess the appropriateness of use of ethnographic information for particular research questions
- 4) Describe the lifeways of Plains bison hunters, with a particular emphasis on the Blackfoot people.
- 5) Explain the relationship between land and *Siksikaitsitapi* (Blackfoot) identity.
- 6) Compare how alternative worldviews influence the interpretation of anthropological evidence.

READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:

Required readings from the relevant literature as indicated in the schedule – links are provided in D2L. All required readings are available digitally through the University of Calgary library (library.ucalgary.ca) or through the digital library of the Smithsonian Institution (<http://digitallibrary.amnh.org/handle/2245/6>).

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT:

Students need a computer with internet, a word processor and a PDF viewer such as Adobe Reader.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

The course grade will be assessed through a series of three written assignments and a participation grade. These components will be weighted as follows:

Quizzes (x3)	25%	(Oct 11, Nov 6, Nov 29, online)
Make the Familiar Strange Assignment:	15%	(Friday Sept 29 by 6 pm)
Reflective Journals (x2)	20%	
Journal 1 (10%)		(Submitted at the discretion of the student, but must be submitted between Oct 13 and Oct 24)
Journal 2 (10%)		(Submitted at the discretion of the student, but must be submitted between Nov 27 and Dec 6).
I-Search Research Paper (3 parts)	40%	
Proposal (5%)		(Friday Oct 13 by 6 pm)
Annotated Bibliography (15%)		(Friday Nov 10 by 6 pm)
I-Search Paper (20%)		(Friday Dec 8 by 6 pm)

Assessment Format:

It is not necessary to pass all components to pass the course. No opportunities for extra credit are available in this course. Additional details and instructions for assessments will be provided to students in class and on D2L.

1. **Quizzes (25%) (Oct 11, Nov 6, Nov 29, D2L)**

Three 15-minute open-book multiple-choice quizzes each worth 8.3% will be administered through D2L following lectures on Oct 11, Nov 6 and Nov 29. The quizzes will be posted on D2L from 2 PM on the day of the lecture until 2 pm the following day. Once you start, you will have a maximum of 15 minutes to complete each quiz. The quizzes are not cumulative, including only material from prior course lectures, readings, audio-visual components and discussions since the time of the last quiz. You must start and finish the quiz in one continuous attempt; you cannot continue the quiz at a later point and will not be able to log in to the quiz more than once.

2. ***Make the Familiar Strange Assignment* (15%) (Due Friday Sept 29 by 6 pm)**

Students will be responsible for writing a short ethnographic description of a familiar place from your own daily life/culture, followed by critical reflection on the context of ethnographic evidence. The Make the Familiar Strange Assignment is due by Friday Sept 29 by 6 pm and must be submitted through DropBox on D2L in Word or PDF format. This assignment (2-3 pages total) consists of two parts. First, write short (250-300 words) ethnographic description of your chosen place. Using the ethnographic voice, describe your familiar place as though you are seeing it as an outsider for the first time. Second, provide a critical reflection on the context in which ethnographic information was collected in the past, and resulting biases. While this is not expected to be a reference heavy assignment, any material used must be referenced appropriately using the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) reference style.

3. ***Reflective Journals* (20%) (Journal 1 due between Oct 13 and Oct 24; Journal 2 due between Nov 27 and Dec 6)**

Students will submit two (worth 10% each), which are expected to articulate your learning journey through the course. Reflective journals may be submitted in a written (pages) or video (3-5 minutes) format. Each reflective journal is submitted at the discretion of the student but must be submitted during the period indicated. Journal 1 must be submitted between Oct 13 and Oct 24. Journal 2 must be submitted between Nov 27 and Dec 6. We recognize and expect that students will all come away with different learnings and that is ok! The goal here is to provide authentic opportunities for self-reflection and learning and to provide opportunities for discussion. Reflective journals must be submitted through the appropriate DropBox on D2L.

4. ***I-Search Research Paper* (40%) (Part 1 Due Friday Oct 13 by 6 pm; Part 2 Due Friday Nov 10 by 6 pm; Part 3 Due Dec 8 by 6 pm)**

This paper is designed to teach students something valuable about a chosen topic and about the nature of searching and discovery. The "I-Search" paper allows you to relate your experience of hunting for facts and opinions firsthand, and to provide a step-by-step record of the search process. Each student will choose a topic that interests you related to the course theme of Plains ethnography. Your paper will consist of three parts due throughout the semester, all of which must be submitted through the appropriate DropBox on D2L in Word or PDF format. All references must be referenced appropriately using the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) reference style.

The three parts of the assignment are:

- a) *Proposal*: Each student will write a 1-2 page proposal in which you explain what your topic is, how you arrived at your topic and why you are interested in this topic. You must articulate a research question(s) and discuss what you hope to learn from researching

this topic. This portion of the assignment is due on Friday Oct 13 by 6 pm and will be marked on a credit/no-credit basis.

- b) *Annotated bibliography*: Each student must create an annotated bibliography which includes at least 10 references relevant to your research topic. Each bibliography entry should describe the source briefly and discuss why it is of interest and relevance to your chosen research question. This portion of the assignment is due on Friday, November 10 by 6 pm.
- c) *I-Search Paper*: Your final research paper is expected to be 6-8 pages (excluding a separate references cited section) and should include three distinct sections 1) What you knew before beginning the research (1-2 pages), 2) discussion of your search in narrative form (4-6 pages) and 3) what you learned and discovered (1 page). Additional assignment instructions will be provided on D2L and discussed in class. This portion of the assignment is due Dec 8 by 6 pm.

Late/Missed Assignments

For exams: Missed examinations/tests cannot be made up without the approval of the instructor. Exams may only be deferred in the case of serious illness or medical emergency, religious observance, or domestic affliction (see: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-final-exams>). Students who miss a test/exam have up to **48 hours** to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. Makeup tests/exams differ significantly (in form and/or content) from the regularly scheduled test/exam and will be essay style exams. Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within **two weeks** of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor.

For written assignments: Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day, including holidays and weekends. All assignments must be submitted to the Dropbox on D2L.

Regarding documentation: Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note. Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:

A+	95 – 100%	B+	80 – 84.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B	75 – 79.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%	F	< 50%

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

Acknowledgment and Respect for Diversity

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology views diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion.

COURSE POLICIES

Course Logistics:

The course will follow an active and experiential learning format; participation in activities will be key to student success. Segments of class time each week will be focused on learning through discussion and other participatory activities. Students are expected to be active participants in these activities and involved in their own learning. Active participation will help you achieve success. A respectful and safe environment for students to participate is considered a priority; disrespectful or condescending behaviours towards other students will not be tolerated.

Communication and Email Policy

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the instructor's office hours to address any questions or concerns that they may have regarding the course. This is also a good opportunity to discuss concepts and ideas that are covered in class.

The best way to contact the instructor is through email. Please begin with the course code in the subject line (ARKY 419) and be sure to sign your name. I will do my best to answer emails within 48 hours upon receipt within standard business days and hours. Emails will not be responded to between the hours of 5 pm and 8 am or on weekends. Please do NOT expect an immediate reply. Also, note that I will not answer emails related to assignments that are due within 24 hours. Please manage your time accordingly and address concerns well in advance of the due date

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing. Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change)

ARKY 419 Fall 2023

Date	Topic/Activity	Required Readings
W Sep 6	Intro to Course Traditional Territories	
F Sep 8	The Great Plains	
M Sep 11	Discovery of North America	
W Sep 13	Colonization and its Impacts	
F Sep 15	8 th Fire	
M Sep 18	Residential Schools	
W Sep 20	Guest Lecture: Vivian Ayoungman (TBC)	
F Sep 22	Barbukeria and Discussion	
M Sep 25	Politics of Appropriation	
W Sep 27	Ethics/TRC/OCAP	Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2015 <i>Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada</i> pp. 1-22.
F Sep 29	Guest Lecture: Kent Ayoungman (TBC)	Grinnell, George Bird 1892 <i>Blackfoot Lodge Tales</i> . Charles Scribners Sons, New York. pp. 137-144.
F Sept 29 Make the Familiar Strange Assignment due by 6 pm (D2L)		
M Oct 2	Worldviews	Little Bear, Leroy 2000 <i>Jagged Worldviews Colliding. Reclaiming Indigenous Voice and Vision</i> , Marie Battiste (editor). University of British Columbia Press.
W Oct 4	Two Eyed Seeing	Barnhardt, R. and O. Kawagley 1999 <i>Education Indigenous to Place: Western Science Meets Indigenous Reality. Ecological Education in Action</i> . G. Smith and D. Williams (editors). SUNY Press, New York.
F Oct 6	Blackfoot Worldview/Cosmos	Bastien, Betty 2004 <i>Blackfoot Ways of Knowing; The Worldview of the Siksikaitstapi</i> . University of Calgary Press. Excerpt – page #s provided on D2L.
M Oct 9	Thanksgiving Day, No Classes	
W Oct 11	Travel/Trails/Named Place/Movement	
W Oct 11 2pm to Th Oct 12 2 pm Quiz #1 (D2L)		
F Oct 13	How to do Research	
F Oct 13 I-Search Paper Part 1 (Proposal) Due by 6 pm (on D2L)		
F Oct 13 to Oct 24 Journal 1 submitted at the discretion of the student (on D2L)		
M Oct 16	Linguistics	
W Oct 18	Subsistence Part 1: Hunting	Grinnell, George Bird

		1892 <i>Blackfoot Lodge Tales</i> . Charles Schribners Sons, New York. Pg. 226-241
F Oct 20	Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump	
M Oct 23	Subsistence Part 2: Gathering	
W Oct 25	Resource Management	
F Oct 27	The Tipi	
M Oct 30	Material Culture Part 1	Wissler, Clark 1910 <i>Material Culture of the Blackfoot Indians</i> . Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History Vol 5. Part 1.
W Nov 1	Material Culture Part 2	Wissler, Clark 1910 <i>Material Culture of the Blackfoot Indians</i> . Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History Vol 5. Part 1.
F Nov 3	Guest Lecture: Herman Yellow Old Woman (TBC)	
M Nov 6	Social org – Clans/Political org	Wissler, Clark, 1912 <i>Social Life and Ritualistic Ceremonies of the Blackfoot Indians</i> . Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History Vol 7. Excerpts- pages provided on D2L.
M Nov 6 to T Nov 7 2 pm Quiz #2 (D2L)		
W Nov 8	Warfare	Grinnell, George Bird 1892 <i>Blackfoot Lodge Tales</i> . Charles Schribners Sons, New York. pp 242-255.
F Nov 10	Religion 1	Wissler, Clark and D.C. Duvall 1908 <i>Mythology of the Blackfoot Indians</i> . Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History Vol 2. Part 1. Excerpts – page numbers provided on D2L. Grinnell, George Bird 1892 <i>Blackfoot Lodge Tales</i> . Charles Schribners Sons, New York. Excerpts – page numbers provided on D2L.
F Nov 10 I-Search Paper Part 2 (Annotated Bibliography) Due by 6 pm (on D2L)		
Nov 12-18	Term Break, No Classes	
M Nov 20	Guest Lecture: Kent Ayoungman (TBC)	
W Nov 22	Religion 2	
F Nov 24	Religion 3	
M Nov 27	Discussion	LaPierre, Rosalyn R. 2017 <i>Invisible Reality: Storytellers, Storytakers, and the Supernatural World of the Blackfeet</i> . University of Nebraska Press. Read Chapters 4 and 5 (Closed Season/Open Season).

F Nov 27 to Dec 6 Journal 2 submitted at the discretion of the student (on D2L)		
W Nov 29	Guest Lecture: Francis Melting Tallow (TBC)	Sarah Carter, Walter Hildebrandt, Dorothy First Rider, and the Treaty 7 Tribal Council 1995 <i>The True Spirit and Original Intent of Treaty 7</i> . McGill-Queens University Press. Chapter 1: The Elders Narrative of the Making of Treaty 7.
W Nov 29 to Th Nov 30 2 pm Quiz # 3 (D2L)		
F Dec 1	Indigenous Archaeology	Zedeno, Marial Nieves 2021 Oral Tradition as Emplacement: Ancestral Blackfoot Memories of the Rocky Mountain Front. <i>Journal of Social Archaeology</i> 21(3):306-328.
M Dec 4	Discussion	Artifactuality Podcast: We Have Always Been Here – Conversations with Blackfoot Elders About Archaeology, Time and Territory. https://www.historymuseum.ca/blog/artifactuality-we-have-always-been-here/
W Dec 6	Reconciliation/Discussion	
F Dec 8 I-Search Paper Part 3 (Paper) Due by 6 pm (on D2L)		
Dec 9-20	Fall Final Exam Period	

IMPORTANT DATES

M Sept 4	Labour Day, No Classes
T Sept 5	Start of Classes
R Sept 14	Last day to drop a class without a financial penalty
F Sept 15	Last day to add or swap a course
F Sept 22	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
S Sept 30	National Truth and Reconciliation Day
M Oct 9	Thanksgiving Day, No Classes.
M Nov 13	Remembrance Day Observance
Nov 12-18	Reading Break. No classes.
W Dec 6	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Dec 9-20	Fall Final Exam Period.
Dec 25-31	Holiday Observance, University Closed.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html#fall2017>