

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2016

Course: RELS 373.11 L02 Indigenous Spiritualities
Instructor: Dr. Chris Daniels
Office: Rm SS 542
Office Hours: Mondays from 1:00-2:00 Rm SS 555
E-mail: chris.daniels@ucalgary.ca
Telephone: 403-220-5612 or 403-220-5886 (main office)

Required Text:

Process-Relational Philosophy, by Robert Mesle
Tsawalk: A Nuu-chah-nulth Worldview, by E. Richard Atleo
Blackfoot Physics: A Journey into the Native American Worldview by F. David Peat
Additional materials as posted

Recommended Text

Native Science: Natural Laws of Interdependence by Gregory Cajete
The Way We Used To Live, by Vine Deloria Jr.
Blackfoot Ways of Knowing, by Betty Bastien

Course Description

There appears to be a vast difference in worldviews between the dominant Euro-American society and that of the world's Indigenous cultures. Why are Indigenous beliefs and practices so fundamentally different than ours? Why do their narratives so often sound like fantasy from the Western perspective? Why do Indigenous priorities often conflict with the societal norm? Is it really just that they are unscientific? This course is an investigation into the relational and experiential worldviews foundational to the beliefs and practices of many of the world's Indigenous traditions. It will also discuss particular Indigenous communities' social and spiritual beliefs and practices to determine whether they are consistent with these alternative ways of understanding the world. The first part of the course will focus on definitions of what it means to be Indigenous and how a relational worldview fundamentally differs from the dominant "Western" perspective. It will then compare the practices and beliefs of diverse Indigenous cultures to these relational views of reality through student research and presentations.

Online elements for this course:

All online elements of this course will require access to D2L.

Core Competencies:

Students in this class will have the opportunity to learn about alternative worldview perspectives. In so doing they will gain critical reading and thinking skills. They will also begin to acquire abilities that contribute to clear and concise writing, research, and communication. Skills and understanding acquired in this course will have relevance in upper level courses in the Arts, as well as in wider academic, career, and social settings. Knowledge acquired in this course will

help students reflect and converse more clearly and critically on a variety of multicultural issues.

Tentative Course Requirements:

	Assessment	Weight (%)
Midterm exam	January 27, 2016	15%
Midterm exam	February 10, 2016	15%
Participation	Ongoing	15%
Research Essay	Term paper	25%
Presentation	Summary and Presentation	20%
Presentation Exam	April 13	10%

Written Assignments and Presentation:

The written assignments will both be associated with the student presentation. The main essay paper will be a 10 page research report that will be due one week following the student presentation and will reflect both the student research and any new information or discussion that the presentation generated. The other will be a 5 page summary of the student’s research which will also constitute the in-class presentation. It will be due on the day of the student’s presentation. More detail will be discussed in class.

Participation: There will be an expectation of participation in class and group discussions.

Exams: The midterm will include all readings, lectures, and discussion to date. The exam on final day of the term will be on information presented in the student presentations and subsequent discussions. There will be no registrar scheduled final exam.

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, standardized within the Department of Classics and Religion:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Policy with regard to missed assignments/assessments:

Test dates are firm. Without acceptable documentation (i.e. medical certificate, police report, bereavement notice, confirmation of religious observance, or court summons), missed assessments will be awarded a 0 (zero). Late written assignments will be assessed a 5%/day grade deduction.

This policy is intended to encourage diligence and integrity among students as well as to uphold principles of fairness and equality with respect to other students in the class. Excuses other than those listed above will receive little attention.

Expectations for student conduct in this course:

This course is designed for critical thinking and investigation of sensitive topics. Students will be expected to treat other students and the instructor with respect. Aggressive or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

Electronic Device Policy:

Laptops are permitted only for the purpose of taking notes and for assignments. No electronics devices are allowed to be used in class for emailing, facebook, videos, texting, games, etc. Students that distract other students or the instructor with unauthorized use of electronic devices will be asked to leave the classroom.

References and Bibliography:

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html. Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.)If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

Student 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 www.ucalgary.ca/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.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at as-carts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints. Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

Safewalk

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.