

School of Liberal Arts



ENGLISH 230
Indigenous Narratives

3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Drew Lyness, Ph.D.	OFFICE HOURS	Open by appointment
OFFICE	A2005	CLASSROOM	A2204
E-MAIL	dlyness@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	Mondays, 5:30-7:20pm
TELEPHONE	604 789 7765 (texts welcome!)	CRN	10104
Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

COURSE DESCRIPTION

“Indigenous Narratives”

A note on language and Indigenous Literatures: We will consider language to be an object of study in this course. In acknowledgment that the English language itself contains inherent limitations and biases given the subject matter at hand, instructors will encourage all students to find the best meaning of this title in their own ancestral languages. When the course is taken at distance, in the communities of Yukon First Nations, outside the territory, or Canada, students will work to connect the course title to the land they are on.

This course engages with First Nations, Métis and Inuit narratives. A significant portion of the course texts will be generated by you, the members of this class. While we will focus on Indigenous communities of North America, global perspectives of Indigeneity may also inform our study. We will interpret the term ‘text’ broadly to honour multiple ways-of-knowing, including contemporary literary fiction as well as poetry, drama, story, ceremony, song, film and visual art. Key themes may include memory, time, authenticity, representation, appropriation, stereotype, trauma, reconciliation, resilience, revitalization and healing within Indigenous communities.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Six credits of first-year English composition and literature (e.g., ENGL 100 and 101) or instructor's permission.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

With conscientious effort, upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to...

- Consider elements of storytelling from different cultural perspectives.
- Increase awareness of mainstream misrepresentations of Indigenous peoples.
- Analyse texts written by Indigenous peoples in terms of identity, resilience, economics, race, ethnicity, land, water, air, colonialism, gender identity and expression, spirit, sex, sexual orientation and sexuality.
- Respect and connect to Yukon First Nations contexts and histories within this broader discussion.
- Evaluate the use of Western literary terminology and critical frameworks in discussions of works of Indigenous literature.
- Think, speak, write, and *be*, curious, critical and respectful in all communications. (i.e., analyse, interpret, synthesize, perform, evaluate, embody, be silent.)
- Recognize, discuss and honour Indigenous ways of understanding and concepts. Present ideas clearly and do postsecondary research into literary subjects in a way that honours ancestral connections.
- Acknowledge that learning emerges in relation to our classmates; make community part of your practice. Experience learning with joy, humour and empowerment, towards your own wholeness and wellbeing.

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

This course is delivered in a blended online format with one “book club” style meeting time (Mondays at 5:30pm) during which students will meet in person and discuss texts and topics. In the post-pandemic world we will aim to stay flexible, so keep in touch regarding these meetings!

The course will use a variety of materials, activities, and technical solutions. You will need to visit the course Moodle site and participate in online activities and discussions as assigned and scheduled. Access to a computer and internet connection are necessary. Please get in touch should any technological challenges arise with accessibility for this course. As well as our weekly meetings, I am available for office hours by appointment. The class will proceed on a timetable with set assignments and due dates.

Expectations:

Primarily all I ask is that you engage in the course material, read, watch, listen and tune-in on Tuesdays ready to speak your mind honestly and with respect for each other. This isn't a course with a lot of 'wrong answers', just right intentions. Beyond this the assignments are flexible and negotiable, according to your individual interests, situation and aspirations. Grading will be fair, but it is far from my priority in this course.

EVALUATION

As a partly online course, a significant portion of your grade will come from your **engagement in the course site**. There will be weekly discussion postings due in the form of audio messages, short videos, or short written responses to a prompt. Your discussion postings will serve as journals and also as springboards for class discussion. Over the course of the semester, we'll accumulate a collection of themes, terms and concepts that will help us to discuss Indigenous narratives, and I'll be looking for you to use these ideas in discussion.

In addition, each student will be responsible for introducing and presenting on **one literary novel by an Indigenous writer of their own choosing**. You will be given parameters and guidance as you look for this text.

Furthermore, each student will be responsible for bringing in **one other text which does not employ the written word, and then making a case for why this text should be considered 'literary'**. The definition of 'text' for this exercise is boundless.

Both these components will involve short presentations to the group, to be delivered in class

time, but the format of these presentations is entirely negotiable.

You will write one longer (approx. 6 page) **synthesis essay** for the course. Topic proposals for that final essay are due any time before Week 10. Your paper must include the following: a theoretical concept we have tackled; at least one work of literary fiction; a poem, song, visual or digital text, or film; one work not on the syllabus of any genre.

Tests

There will be no Midterm or Final exam in this course. We will schedule a collaborative group project in our final class session which will comprise 25% of your overall grade. Stay tuned for details.

EVALUATION

Students are free to discuss alternative assessment methods with the instructor as necessary.

Moodle engagement, discussion postings etc.	30%
Individual text presentations	25%
Longer literary essay	20%
Final collaborative group project	25%
Total	100 %

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Readings, media and other texts will be posted on Moodle. Students will also be responsible for **finding one literary novel of their own choosing**, to read, present on and analyse in relation to the course

themes (see specific assignments for details). Students will also be responsible for bringing in one other 'text' (as defined) and making a case for its literary significance within the context of this course.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website at www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

The topics of this course will likely constantly evolve and are unable to be pinned-down at this time. Topics will almost certainly change according to the student interests and current affairs. Relevance can only be ensured with fluidity, and, as we've all learned in recent times, there's not much benefit in planning: so why commit ourselves on paper?!

N.B.

For a full list of topics covered, please e-mail instructor: dlynness@yukonu.ca