

**St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology**

Sociology 335.10
Fall, 2017

Dr. David Lynes
Annex, Rm. 9-C

Sociology of Canada's Indigenous Peoples

This course is an introduction to the key issues surrounding Canada's Indigenous Peoples, with particular attention paid to the ongoing efforts to overcome and transcend the consequences of the country's colonial history. As a basis for understanding the current situation facing Canada's Indigenous Peoples, the course will review the history of first contact, and continue to examine the various treaties and later, policies which have proven so deleteriously consequential to the culture and well-being of so many of the country's First Nations, Métis, and Inuit populations.

The focus on history will be balanced by consideration of a series of thematic concerns including the nature and affects of Colonialism, Culture, Identity, Quotidian Life challenges, Racism, Collective Affirmation. More specific topics will include Reservations/Settlements, Residential Schools, "Living off the land", Addiction/Substance Abuse, Suicide, Organized Protests, Gender Relations, and Media Representation.

Texts

There is one required texts for this course:

Thomas King, *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America* (Anchor Canada, 2013).

A variety of additional readings will be assigned from texts relevant to the topics discussed and will either be distributed in class or made available via the course Moodle site. A draft list of supplemental readings is included at the end of this outline.

Evaluation

The course grade will be based on a series of test, assignments, and exercises distributed over the course of the term which are designed to promote the critical analysis of various forms of culturally available information, conceptions and representations of first contact, colonialism, and post-colonial developments.

Mid-Term Test.....	15%
In-Class Exercises.....	20%
Term Essay	25%
Participation.....	10%
Final Exam.....	30%

Class Format

The class format and the speed at which the material is covered will be open for revision as the course progresses. However, the aim will always be to pursue the work within the context of open class discussions and exercises, in addition to lectures and presentations. **Please Note:** Attendance is important for this course as the in-class discussions are essential to the course objectives.

Office Hours

My office is in the Annex, Rm 9-C (the lower floor, towards Lane Hall). Office hours are as follows:

Monday	2:30 to 4:15
Wednesday	1:00 to 3:30

There will be times when I am unable to be in the office during the posted office hours due to committee and department meetings or unforeseen circumstances. If this happens, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Other times can be arranged by appointment if you are unable to make those listed. Contact me through e-mail to arrange a meeting or to ask any questions.

E-mail: <dlynes@stfx.ca>

Phone: 867-3802

Finally, feel free to drop in to discuss any aspect of the course or of the Sociology program more generally at any time during the term

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment free from discrimination or harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy which can be found at <http://www.mystfx.ca/campus/stu-serv/equity/>. Please feel free to discuss with me any questions or concerns you have about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor.

Additional Readings:

Additional readings will include excerpts and chapters from some or all of the following works:

Adorno, Theodor and Max Horkheimer. "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception" in *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, Stanford: Stanford University Press 2002.

Arendt, Hannah. "Imperialism" Book Two of *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1973).

- Baudrillard, Jean. *Simulacra and Simulation* (1981).
- Belanger, Yale, B. *Ways of Knowing: An Introduction to Native Studies in Canada* (2014).
- Blum, Alan, F. "Voice and its Appropriation: the Ventriloquist and the Dummy", *Poiesis*, Vol.3, 2001
- Césaire, Aimé. *Discourse on Colonialism* (1972).
- Devon A. Mihesuah (ed.) *Natives and Academics: Researching and Writing about American Indians* (Lincoln Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1998).
- Dickason, Olive Patricia with William Newbigging, *A Concise History of Canada's First Nations*, 2nd Ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Hall, Stuart. *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices* (2013).
- Ignatieff, Michael, *The Rights Revolution* Toronto: Anansi, 2000.
- Kuper, Adam. *The Invention of Primitive Society: Transformation of an Illusion* 1996.
- Lyotard, Jean-François, *The Postmodern Condition*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984.
- Said, Edward W. *Orientalism* 1979.
- Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Anti-Semite and Jew* 1976.
- Wilson, James. *The Earth Shall Weep* 2000.
- Wilson, Roderick and Christopher Fletcher (eds.) *Native Peoples: The Canadian Experience*. Toronto: Oxford, 2014.
- Young, Robert J.C., *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*. Oxford, UK.: Blackwell Publishing, 2001.