

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

ANTH*3650: The Anthropology of Indigenous Peoples Before Canada FALL 2021

Instructor: Thomas (Tad) McIlwraith Time: Tues/Thurs 1:00pm-2:20pm
Office: MCKN 616 or Via Teams Room: ANNU 204
Hours: TBA
Email: tmcilwra@uoguelph.ca

Course Description

This course uses archaeological, ethno-historical, oral historical, and anthropological research to examine the cultures and social organizations of Indigenous peoples in Canada from “time immemorial” to European contact. Major geographical areas are examined – from the Arctic, Pacific, and Atlantic coasts, to the boreal forest, prairies, and woodland regions. This course will emphasize different ways of thinking – knowledge systems – about history and the past and it will consider the definition and role of Indigenous archaeology in our understanding of cultural heritage.

The instructor is not Indigenous and will teach the course from the perspective of the discipline of anthropology, its contributions to the study of the past, and the shortcomings of this academic discipline.

Objectives

1. Understand the archaeological record in Canada as it pertains to Indigenous peoples and their cultures;
2. Understand different approaches to the studying the past, including those from anthropologists, archaeologists, and Indigenous peoples;
3. Learn about the nature of current archaeological and anthropological research, particularly from the perspectives of community-based work and Indigenous archaeology;
4. Consider how our stories and accounts of the past remain relevant and controversial in the present.

Required Readings

- Articles and book chapters will be provided through Courselink and ARES. There will be 1-2 academic articles/week plus news stories.

(Tentative) Evaluation

Reading Reflections	10
In-class midterm (2)	30
Essay Prospectus	10
Take-home final exam	25
Essay	25

Note: This outline is subject to change. A complete outline will be available once courselink becomes available.