



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Educational Studies

Faculty of Education

Course Information

Prefix & number	Title
EDST 591.971	Indigenous Epistemology and Curriculum
Instructor	Prerequisites or restrictions (if any)
Dr. Cash Ahenakew	

Focus or Content

This blended course aims to prepare students to engage with Indigenous ways of knowing, relating and being in generative and ethical ways. The course is divided into three parts, corresponding to the three weeks of the course. In the first week students will with the impact of historical, systemic and on-going forms of (racial, colonial, inter-sectional and ecological) violence and the complicities and responsibilities of differently positioned communities in this context. In the second week students will engage with some of the complexities of efforts to Indigenize and decolonize education. It is only in the third week of the course that students engage more directly with Indigenous epistemologies, pedagogies and curriculum. Cultural, political and spiritual perspectives related to Indigenous education, relationship to the land and the trauma of colonization will be explored.

Goals, Objectives or Learning Outcomes

- identify the general impact of historical, systemic and on-going violence on marginalized communities and the unique challenges faced by Indigenous peoples in the settler-colonial context of Canada
- assess the challenges and responsibilities of your positionality in the settler-colonial context of Canada
- compare and contrast Indigenous and non-Indigenous approaches to knowledge and education
- discern between problematic and ethical ways of engaging with Indigenous ways of knowing, relating and being.

Assignments or Assessment Process

Participation in class and zoom sessions represent 20% of the course grade; the three journals represent 15% of the course grade each (45% total) and the final assignment represents 35% of the course grade.

Notes/Other

Some of the content of this course will be uncomfortable as it refers to settler-Indigenous relations and the violence of settler-colonialism. The pedagogy of this course encourages

students to learn to hold space for these difficult and complex issues without being overwhelmed. Different students will also likely experience this course differently. If you identify as an Indigenous student taking this course, please let the instructor know.