

Course Description
RELI2720, Winter 2021
Indigenous Religions of Canada

Course Calendar Description:

Religions of Inuit, First Nations and Métis peoples, past and present. Considerations include concepts of tradition, syncretism and “creative ritual.” Primary sources may include textual, visual and oral materials. Course may include fieldwork, as well as in-class presentations by community elders.

Course Description:

This course begins with an overview of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) nations on Turtle Island and a history of contact between indigenous and settling nations. Then students are introduced to the cosmological, metaphysical, philosophical, and ritualistic elements of religious/spiritual traditions that form part of the Inuit, First Nations, and Métis peoples. Students will study origin stories, rituals, beliefs, practices, and ideas of land, healing, and justice that taken together encompass the religious/spiritual belief systems of FNMI peoples. In doing so, students will not only gain a critical historical perspective to FNMI religious traditions, but they will also be equipped to understand and make meaningful interventions in contemporary issues of religious diversity faced by FNMI nations today.

The course will include weekly lectures, class discussions, audio and video materials, and guest lectures from Indigenous Elders and scholars. This pedagogy will enable students to have a thorough understanding of each of the religious traditions in the course, and it will equip them with the skills required to navigate contemporary issues related to indigenous spirituality. In addition, students will gain analytical and critical thinking skills, reading and writing skills, and engage in deliberative pedagogies all of which are crucial to their University Undergraduate career.