

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
London **Canada**
Department of English and Writing Studies

Human Rights and Indigenous Creative Practices
ENG 9138A
Tuesdays 3:30-6:30
ROOM NO. WL 259

Fall 2016

Professor Julia Emberley FRSC
Department of English and Writing Studies

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-2:30
or by appointment

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Description:

This course brings together the discourse of human rights and Indigenous creative cultural practices through a selection of textual and visual materials in Canadian national as well as international contexts such as those of Australia, the US, and Aotearoa (New Zealand). Students will discuss how these materials re-imagine and transform the precarious affects of settler colonization on human rights, including but not limited to land and ecological issues, the structure of family and kinship, sexual freedoms, and cultural knowledge and storytelling.

Required Readings:

Jack Donnelly, *Human Rights: Theory and Practice. 3rd Edition*
James (Sa'ke'j) Youngblood Henderson, *Indigenous Diplomacy and the Rights of Peoples: Achieving UN Recognition*
Eden Robinson, *Monkey Beach*
Lee Maracle, *Celia's Song*
Marie Clements, *The Edward Curtis Project: A Modern Picture Story*
Jen BuJoan Borsa, et al., *Ruth Cuthand*
Louise Halfe, *The Crooked Good*
Leanne Simpson, *Islands of Decolonial Love*
Sam McKegney, *Masculindians: Conversations about Indigenous Manhood*
Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, *Red: A Haida Manga*
Patrica Grace, *Potiki*
Kathernea Vermette, *The Break*

Evaluation:

Seminar response papers	20%
Class Participation	10%
Seminar Presentation/Written summary	25%
Research Paper (Due Dec. 12)	45%

Response papers 20% and Class Participation 10%:

You are required to write 2-3 double-space pages engaging with weekly materials. Please write a “response” to the literary and/or theoretical work for that week. Engage in an argument with the theoretical material and how, if applicable, it contributes to an analysis of that week’s literary, visual or filmic texts. Response papers will be used as the basis of class discussion and participation. Please upload your response papers at least 24 hours before class on the course OWL site.

Seminar presentation & written summary 25%:

Seminar presentations are expected to be 30-40 minutes, including class discussion. Please do not read from a prepared text. The emphasis here should be on developing oral presentation skills. Students are required to submit a 3 page (double spaced) summary of their presentation including class discussion the following week.

Final research essay 45%:

20 pages or 5000 words on a topic related to the course. Please submit an abstract plus bibliography of your essay by December 1, 2016. The emphasis here is on a “research” essay, which means that you are expected to do a substantial amount of research in support of a clearly developed argument. Include in your abstract the empirical materials you will be analyzing, your theoretical framework, and a summary of your discussion question(s).

Syllabus:**Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Additional Note:

This course is cross-listed with the Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction Program and available to graduate students seeking a graduate level certificate in Human Rights and Transitional Justice. Please contact me for further details and/or Dr. Joanna Quinn, Director of the TJ and PCR Program, if you are interested.