



EDPE 595: Seminar in Special Topics

Introduction to Professional Engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Canada

This course provides an introduction to key considerations pertaining to professional engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Canada, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. The course's aim is to help students to prepare to respectfully engage as educators, counsellors, health professionals, researchers, and other professionals working with this population, in a culturally safe manner that strives to be consistent with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's "calls to action." The course aims to center Indigenous voices through prioritizing Indigenous-authored texts, memoirs, film, events, and news media (and potentially guest speakers), alongside other relevant academic literature.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate greater cultural sensitivity and humility (including awareness of personal, cultural, and systemic biases), in preparing for culturally safe professional work with Indigenous communities, families, and individuals.
2. Critically discuss the history of colonization of the Indigenous peoples globally—particularly in Canada—and the contemporary legacy of such in terms of ongoing systemic racism and oppression.
3. Contextualize historical and contemporary violence, loss, and discrimination faced by Indigenous Peoples, along with appreciating Indigenous communities' remarkable resistance and resilience.
4. Describe basic features and challenges of contemporary Indigenous life in urban, rural, and reserve settings.
5. Describe the importance of Indigenous sovereignty, lands, knowledges, languages, and spirituality.
6. Conceptualize patterns and complexities with individual development, identity formation, gender, and family roles among contemporary Indigenous peoples.
7. Describe the most common factors pertaining to Indigenous wellness, mental health, physical health, and educational success.
8. Critically evaluate sources of information pertaining to Indigenous Peoples, as well as be equipped for lifelong engagement with Indigenous-authored voices.
9. Provide a presentation to their peers on an in-depth group project of one's choice related to engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

Instructor: Prof. Dennis Wendt

Meeting times:

Tuesdays 11:35 AM – 2:35 PM

Location:

The course likely will include a combination of live and asynchronous engagement; for now, students are expected to be available during the scheduled time.

Registration CRNs:

23806 – Graduate Students in the Faculty of Education

23807 – Advanced undergraduate students and any students outside the Faculty of Education with instructor's approval (Contact:

dennis.wendt@mcgill.ca. Priority will be given to those who are or soon will be engaged in professional work or research with Indigenous Peoples in Canada, as well as to Indigenous students)

Note: Students who completed EDPE 595 in Fall 2019 should not register for this course.

Prof. Dennis Wendt, Assistant Professor in Educational and Counselling Psychology, has been engaged in community-based mental health research with Indigenous communities in Canada and the U.S. for the past 10 years. He directs the Cultural and Indigenous Research in Counselling Psychology (CIRC) lab. This research focuses on partnering with Indigenous communities in exploring, developing, and evaluating culturally relevant and culturally safe interventions pertaining to mental health, substance use, and community wellness. He is a member of the Indigenous Working Group of the Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse (Quebec-Atlantic Node), as well as an investigator for the Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research.