COURSE SUMMARY
The objective of this seminar is to provide students with a sociological understanding of the historical and contemporary factors that shape Indigenous women’s health and their access (or lack thereof) to culturally safe healthcare services in urban and rural/remote areas. Integral to the course will be the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing, particularly with regards to women’s health, well-being and resilience. Students will have the opportunity to critically think about what it would take to decolonize Western biomedical healthcare institutions to better serve the needs of Indigenous women, their families and communities. Through readings from Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars/authors and discussions with guest lecturers working directly with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities in Quebec, students will gain exposure to the complex issues and challenges that affect the health of Indigenous women in Canada.

REQUIREMENTS
Breakdown of assignments for final course grade:

Leading Class Discussion: 15%
Reflection Memos (3): 85%

Presentation & Leading Class Discussion
Each student will be assigned to lead a class discussion. Discussion leaders will present four questions for the class to discuss. Students will be graded on (1) the quality and clarity of the questions, (2) the effectiveness of the questions in fostering discussion, and (3) the student’s effectiveness in facilitating the class discussions. Discussion questions must be emailed to Professor Vang by 12:00 PM on the day of the scheduled class.
**Reflection Memos**
Students are required to write three reflection memos (6 pages max, double space). Memos should be based on the readings assigned for the week that the memos are due. For example, Memo 1 is based on the readings on forced sterilization. Memos must be of an analytical nature and not simply summaries of the readings.

See the detailed course outline below for specific due dates for reflection memos.

See MyCourses for the grading rubric for reflection memos.

**REQUIRED READINGS**
The following textbooks are required for this course:


All other required and recommended readings will be available as either electronic course reserves via the Humanities and Social Sciences Library or as PDFs from MyCourses.

**POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**
A full grade will be deducted for every 24 hours that the assignment is late. For example, if your reflection memo is submitted anytime between, and inclusive of, 09:01 (on the due date) and 08:59 on the following day, and you earn a B- on the assignment, then your adjusted grade will be C+.

**PLAGIARISM**
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003.)

**SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK**
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 – see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluations.)

**REGRADE POLICY**
Students who want a regrade of an assignment must submit a 1-page (double space, 12-point font) written request to the instructor no later than 2 weeks from the date the graded
assignment is returned to students and/or when the grade is posted on MyCourses. The written request must include a clear justification for the regrade, and if necessary, a point-by-point rebuttal.

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© Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

CONTENT WARNING: The content and discussion in this course will necessarily engage with settler colonialism and its myriad symbolic and material manifestations. As such, some of the required readings in this class contain depictions of rape, child abuse, self-harm, suicide, and other forms of trauma and violence. Much of it will be emotionally and intellectually challenging to engage with. I’ve flagged especially graphic or intense content next to certain readings and will do my best to make this classroom a space where we can engage bravely, empathetically and thoughtfully with difficult content.

Note: The due dates for the various assignments may be subject to change, contingent on discussion and agreement from the entire class.
## DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

### Week 1 (Sep 3) – Introductions & Post-Colonialism


### Week 2 (Sep 10) – Settler Colonialism


### Week 3 (Sep 17) – Social Determinants of Health & Fundamental Causes of Disease


Week 4 (Sep 24) – Unpacking Cultural Competence, Humility & Safety


*Recommended:*


Week 5 (Oct 1) – Historical Foundations: Forced Sterilization


**Reflection memo 1 due 12:00 PM October 1, 2021. Must submit Word copy to relevant assignment folder on MyCourses.**
Week 6 (Oct 8) – Historical Foundations: Segregated Hospitals


Recommended:

***No Class on Oct 15 (Fall Break)***

Week 7 (Oct 22) – Historical Foundations: Residential Schools, Sixties Scoop & Intergenerational Trauma


Recommended:
Week 8 (Oct 29) – Women, Mothers and Grandmothers


**Recommended:**

**Reflection memo 2 due 12:00 PM October 29, 2021. Must submit Word copy to relevant assignment folder on MyCourses.**

Week 9 (Nov 5) – Health & Health Care Access in Northern & Remote Communities


**Guest Speaker: TBD**

**Recommended:**
Week 10 (Nov 12) – Indigenous Models of Health and Wellness


Recommended:

Week 11 (Nov 19) – Research with Indigenous Communities: Ethical Considerations and Participatory Research


**Guest Speaker: Hilah Silver, RN, Royal Victoria Hospital & PhD Candidate, Department of Family Medicine, McGill University**

Recommended:

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**Week 12 (Nov 26) – Health & Health Care Access in Urban Communities**


**Guest Speaker: TBD**

Recommended:

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**Week 13 (Dec 3) – Decolonization**


Recommended:


**Reflection memo 3 due 12:00 PM December 3, 2021. Must submit Word copy to relevant assignment folder on MyCourses.**