

IDFC 500
Indigenous Field Studies
May 2022 Summer Session I

IDFC 500 - Indigenous Field Studies (3 credits) - open to students in: Social Work (MSW & BSW U2 and higher); Anthropology; Education; Law; Medicine; and the Indigenous Studies Minor, or by permission of the instructor (*students who have taken IDFC 380 may not register for this course). Course runs from May 2, 2022-May 30, 2022 with 6 day field component (Mon-Sat; to be confirmed)

Course Description:

This course provides an opportunity for students from Social Work, Law, Medicine, Anthropology, Nursing and Education to learn about Indigenous cultures and worldviews, with a particular emphasis on Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) teachings and their connection to the students' areas of concentration. During this **four-week intensive course** (one week in Kanehsatake, Mohawk Territory), students are introduced to Kanien'kehá:ka customs, values and ways of life through daily activities/workshops led by a Kanien'kehá:ka Elder and other community members, with support from McGill instructors. Attention will also be given to the intergenerational effects of colonization and Canadian policies on contemporary Indigenous society.

The objective of this course is to provide a holistic approach to learning about Indigenous cultures. The course contains physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual components, with the intent that the students will be immersed in cultural activities throughout the course. In Kanehsatake, students will camp and will participate in activities, workshops, ceremonies and hands-on learning led by community Elders and facilitators. **Interdisciplinary group work is at the core of the field week experience.** Activities are held both at the campsite and at various Kanehsatake locations. The field portion of the course may involve rugged field conditions and varying weather for which students must be prepared and equipped. On-campus sessions prior to the field portion will provide background information and context from each of the participating disciplines, while on-campus sessions afterwards provide an opportunity to debrief.

Student Fee:

There is a student fee for this course, which covers food, activities, land use, and other site expenses for Week 3 in Kanehsatake (approx. \$421 per student).

Applying:

Med-P and medical students (open to med-3 students with elective time in Block 12) wishing to register for the course must submit a statement of intent (one-page or less) outlining why they would like to take the course, what they hope to get out of the course, a copy of their CV and any relevant experience working with Indigenous peoples to Dr. Kent Saylor by **Friday, January 7, 2022.**

Submit your application to Dr. Kent Saylor (kent.saylor@mcgill.ca).

NOTE

The dates for this elective may overlap with clinical rotations in Block 11 (medical students only). Any conflicts regarding dates must be discussed with your rotation supervisors and/or with the IFDC 500 course coordinator to allow you to take this elective.

For more information, please contact one of the IDFC 500 Course Coordinators as listed in the Course Outline – Pamela Weightman (pamela.weightman@mcgill.ca) or Prof. Nicole Ives (nicole.ives@mcgill.ca).