

The University of Western Ontario  
Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism and Department of English  
Theory 9617A / English 9163A

Contact Information:

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Class Meetings: Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. in Somerville House Room 2348

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 2:45 to 4:45 p.m.

Course Description:

In her groundbreaking work, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*, Maori scholar Linda Tuhiwai Smith considers the historical forces and power knowledge is either irrevocably naturalized as the invention and practice of the West. And yet, the core of much Western thought, Indigeneity constitutes the sometimes repressed and sometimes overt catalyst for theorization. This graduate seminar is premised upon the urgent need to do more than trace the specters of Indigeneity in Western thought or examine the

field of contemporary Indigenous thought, a field in which Indigenous peoples are the agents, instead of the objects, of theory. In so doing, the course will lay a critical foundation for understanding key concepts and debates in the field of Indigenous studies.

In this context, the course will grapple with the following questions: How might we Empire? How are Indigenous thinkers theorizing forms of intellectual and cultural resurgence focused upon their own languages, practices, and intellectual traditions? What is the relation between theory and practice? How might theory be mobilized to better address Indigenous rights and social justice? How do a range of Indigenous cultural practices constitute forms of theorizing and how might we read them for their theoretical innovations? In exploring these and other questions, the course will consider how both thinking Indigeneity and Indigenous thought enable nothing less than the decolonization of questions of identity, subjectivity, temporality, sovereignty, citizenship, and power. While the emphasis will be on Indigenous thought and cultural production in Canada and the United States, the course will also consider broader global concerns and contexts.





[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

- It is crucial that students create all assignments (both written and oral) using their own ideas and their own words. If a writer uses a concept, idea, or ~~word~~ from another source, it is



November 16 Colonial Heteropatriarchy and Indigenous Feminisms  
Audra Simpson,