

Huron Faculty of Theology Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Christianity and Indigeneity

Course Number and Section

CHURCH

5232A 550

Instructor Name(s): William Acres

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

We will discuss materials thematically in the relationship between historical and contemporary Christianity and ideas of Indigenous exchange, engagement, conversion, and conflict. Our investigation will proceed through a variety of media, source materials (primary and secondary), images, music, and theological discourses. The concentration is heavily on Canada (as it became known) from the early Nineteenth Century—with much local analysis—but we will range widely over geographies and cultures and Christianities. There is no course description per se, as this offering is not yet part of a particular program (but is an elective in several) so my words here are my own, entirely.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

To obtain a vital understanding of the relationship between historical and contemporary Christianity with respect to Indigenous cultures: through engagement, conflict, conversion, and other forms of exchange.

Understanding the role of cultural erasure, assimilation, and genocide, and the role played by formal and informal church implication and direction of those processes in order to bring the Gospel or other form of Christianity.

To understand our particular roles in a complex historical process.

To understand the Canadian histories of Christianity and Indigeneity as a part of an evolving process of truth telling (we will be discussing the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' 'Calls to Action' repeatedly during course themes, particularly in the introduction and archives sections, weeks 1 and 8).

To understand our own particular roles in relation to the past of Christianity, our present understanding and personal obligations for the future of various relationships.

To begin with understanding Land Acknowledgements—and with the experience of writing one for use in the course.

To journal, gather resources in various media, as part of a continuing process of engagement and understanding after the course is over.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Arthur C. Parker, The Code of Handsome Lake, the Seneca Prophet, Education Department Bulletin no. 530, November 1, 1912, Museum Bulletin, vol. 163, <https://archive.org/details/codeofhandsomela02hand/mode/2up>.

William Acres, ed. The Journal of Robert Luggier, 1827, in report to the New England Company (under Resources, on Brightspace).

Acres, writings on the “modernization” of the Mohawk Institute, Indian Residential School, 1872-77, for purchase: <https://www.anglican.ca/news/new-volume-of-cchs-journal-focuses-on-the-mohawk-institute-in-the-1870s/30046556/>

Photographic scrapbook, London Archives, New England Company fonds, CLC/MS/540 004/002

Mixed Blessings

Indigenous Encounters with Christianity in Canada, Tolly Bradford, et. al.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Weekly participation	12/05/2024	20
Book Review	11/07/2024	15
Take home examination	12/12/2024	15
Presentation	11/28/2024	30
Essay	12/05/2024	20

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Friday, August 30, 2024