

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Department of Sociology**

**SOC 7450: SELECTED TOPICS IN CRIMINOLOGY
“Truth and Reconciliation”
Fall 2010
Every Second Monday 3-5PM
382 University College**

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Credit hours: 3

Course Objectives:

“The fundamental objective of the modern law of aboriginal and treaty rights is the reconciliation of aboriginal peoples and non-aboriginal peoples and their respective claims, interests and ambitions. The management of these relationships takes place in the shadow of a long history of grievances and misunderstanding. The multitude of smaller grievances created by the indifference of some government officials to aboriginal people’s concerns, and the lack of respect inherent in that indifference has been as destructive of the process of reconciliation as some of the larger and more explosive controversies. And so it is in this case.”

These words are the opening paragraph in Mr. Justice Binnie’s decision in the *Mikisew Cree Nation* (2005). Those who want to work in the area of Aboriginal law and those who want to study human rights need to understand the “long history of grievances” if they want to participate in “the process of reconciliation”. Winnipeg will be the home to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) for the next four years. The TRC will foster a national discussion on Aboriginal issues. Participants in the IRS/TRC course will examine rights violations through the perspectives of Aboriginal peoples in the context of Indian Residential School, consider the ongoing impacts of these violations, and study both traditional and novel ways to repair the relationship between Aboriginal communities and settler societies.

Many University of Manitoba academics will use the existence and the presence of the TRC to drive or engage their research and teaching. To capture and feature this work, Kiera Ladner (CRC in Politics and Indigenous Governance) and Karen Busby (through the Centre for Human Rights Research Planning Initiative) are organizing a bi-weekly seminar series *Critical Conversations on Indian Residential Schools, Truth and Reconciliation* during the 2010-2011 academic year. This series will feature UofM scholars and some visiting researchers (such as Jennifer Llewellyn (Dalhousie, Law)). Most of the seminars will be held on alternate Mondays from 3:00-4:30. Topics proposed for presentation include: Archives and Identity; Accessing Archives; TRC processes around the world; Examining the TRC Mandate: What Can It Do?; What is a Genocide; Ethics, Politics and Law of Statement Gathering; IRS Literature; IRS and

Aboriginal Criminality; Common Experience Payments and Healing; and The History of IRS Litigation.

The IRS/TRC course may only be offered one time (2010-2011) unless another university-wide seminar series is planned near the end of the TRC mandate. However it represents an incredible opportunity for sociology students who have a deep interest in the issue of Aboriginal-colonial/settler reconciliation to participate in an extraordinary cross-university conversation. Students will leave the course with a better understanding of where and how things went so wrong in this relationship and what might be done to put it on a much better track.

Readings:

Those delivering seminars will be asked to provide readings and these readings will be posted on line. Those enrolled in the course will be expected to have read the materials in advance of the seminars.

Assignments and Grades:

Masters (and even some PhD) students in Law, Education, Social Work, Peace and Conflict Studies, Political Studies, Sociology, Native Studies and History will be able to obtain course credit in their home disciplines for participation in this course. We anticipate that 3 or 4 (perhaps more) students from each of these disciplines will register for credit. Students registered in the sociology or other courses will be expected to attend all of the bi-weekly seminars throughout both the fall and winter terms. As well, we expect that the inter-disciplinary group will form into a sort of a cohesive cohort. All students who are receiving course credit will be expected to participate in cohort activities including separate student research presentation seminars facilitated by Dr Ladner or Prof Busby and potluck suppers.

Students will be required to attend all the *Critical Conversations on Indian Residential Schools, Truth and Reconciliation: A Seminar Series* and they will be expected to do the readings recommended by presenters. The seminars will be held at a consistent time, probably 3:00-5:00 on alternate Mondays during both terms, and registrants will not be permitted to register in a timetable-conflicted course. Students who do not attend the seminars and participate in cohort activities in first term will not be permitted to enroll in the course in second term.

In addition to writing a research paper (worth 75% of the final grade), students will be graded on participation (worth 25% of the final grade). The paper will be due on the last day of classes in April. Participation grades will be based on preparation, attendance and participation in the bi-weekly seminars; participation in the inter-disciplinary cohort events; inviting other students to come to the seminars and engaging them in discussions on the issues; journaling and e-group discussion participation on the readings and the seminar presentations.

Grading:

A+	90-100	Exceptional
A	80-89	Excellent
B+	76-79	Very Good
B	70-75	Good
C+	66-69	Satisfactory
C	60-65	Adequate
D	50-59	Marginal
F	49 & below	Failure

Academic Honesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (S. 8.1, pp. 26-7) found in the Graduate Calendar.

The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Course Outline:

TBA

The voluntary withdrawal date is March 18, 2011