

**LIS 9370 Introduction to Indigenizing and Decolonizing LIS**  
**MLIS Program, Faculty of Information & Media Studies, Western University**  
**Winter 2021**  
**Senate Outline**

**1. Course Information**

Time: ONLINE, synchronous classes Tuesdays 1:00 -4:00 pm EST, January 12 - April 6, 2021  
Location: online via Zoom and OWL  
OWL site: GRADLIS 9730B 650 GW21  
Available at: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/directtool/2416e0eb-7da3-464b-9a67-6d059adb5fda/>

**2. Instructor Information**

**Course facilitators:**

Marni Harrington: marni.harrington@uwo.ca  
Heather Hill: hhill6@uwo.ca  
Paulette Rothbauer: prothba2@uwo.ca

**Course Teaching Assistant:**

Danica Pawlick-Potts: dpawlic@uwo.ca

**Course Instructors and Guests:**

Camille Callison, Nancy Cooper, Deborah Lee, Loriene Roy, and others to be announced

**3. Course Description**

An introduction to Indigenous contexts for library and information knowledges, practices, and experiences, informed by reconciliation principles, and focused on decolonizing practices within Canadian contexts. This course will be delivered online using OWL and Zoom. Classes will feature different guest lecturers, all of whom are noted Indigenous experts with specializations relevant to the topic of the week. The weeks following the guest instructor will be discussion/activity classes that look back at the themes and topics of the previous week and may look forward to the next week. Supported with funding from Western's Centre for Teaching and Learning and FIMS.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To explore with students an understanding of colonialism and its effects on Indigenous peoples and relationships within library and information contexts;
2. To increase cultural competency when working with or engaging with Indigenous peoples and cultures;
3. To engage in dialogue with students and with Indigenous partners on Indigenous perspectives on library and information studies surfacing historical and contemporary contexts of Indigeneity;
4. To recognize and support culturally appropriate pedagogies and methodologies to critique and destabilize prevailing settler-colonialist discourses and practices in LIS.

**Course Requirements**

Attendance is mandatory for all classes. [Please see the section on attendance in the MLIS Graduate Handbook.](#)  
Grading follows the [Grading Guidelines published in the MLIS Graduate Student Handbook.](#)

**Class Schedule**

<b>12 January (Tues)</b>	<b>Opening Class</b>	23 February (Tues)	Activity/Discussion class
19 January (Tues)	Activity/Discussion class	<b>2 March (Tues)</b>	<b>Guest Instructor</b>
<b>26 January (Tues)</b>	<b>Guest instructor</b>	9 March (Tues)	Activity/Discussion class
2 February (Tues)	Activity/Discussion class	<b>16 March (Tues)</b>	<b>Guest Instructor</b>
<b>9 February (Tues)</b>	<b>Guest Instructor</b>	23 March (Tues)	Activity/Discussion class
15-19 February:	RESEARCH WEEK	30 March (Tues)	<b>Guest Instructor</b>
		6 April (Tues)	<b>Closing class</b>

#### **4. Course Materials**

All required readings are available electronically through the course OWL site.

#### **5. Methods of Evaluation**

Participation and Preparation: 15%

7 Reflections due Fridays, throughout term: 70%

Future Project Proposal, due April 12, noon, 15% (team or individual)

#### **6. Statement on Academic Offences**

Academic Offences - Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at the following website:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

See also the [section on Academic Offences in the MLIS Student Handbook](#).

#### **7. Support Services**

Indigenous Student Services: For culturally-relevant, wholistic and strength-based programs and services geared toward Indigenous students at Western: <https://indigenous.uwo.ca/students/>

Health and Wellness, including mental health support: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Western's "Health and Wellness" at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

FIMS Graduate Library is your go-to for help accessing the resources you need for this course.

<https://lib.fims.uwo.ca/>