

## FNST 600 – Foundations of First Nations Studies: Theory and Practice

Fall 2021

First Nations Studies Department, UNBC CRN 50300

**Course Times:** as indicated in Course Schedule below

**Instructor:** Dr. Pawlowska-Mainville

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Location:** on-line

**Office:** Admin 3015

**E-Mail:** [mainville@unbc.ca](mailto:mainville@unbc.ca) or 250-960-5434

### Calendar Course Description:

A seminar in which major contributions to the field are reviewed and the methods, approaches and conclusions of the works are explicated and located within contemporary theory.

### Learning Outcomes:

Amilcar Cabral writes that a number of different experiences have been accumulated to help with fighting imperialism. The scholar Paul de Man, in his “Resistance to Theory,” on the other hand argues that the main interest of theory lies in revealing the impossibility of defining it. However, despite inimical attitudes, the role of theory in (re)shaping and (re)thinking culture is undeniable, because its rise has been concomitant with significant cultural and historical changes, and with a number of important intellectual challenges to ways of thinking about philosophy, science, history, and art. This course will examine diverse trajectories of critical inquiry within Indigenous studies by means of structuralism, feminism, postcolonialism, postmodernism, marxism etc. Primary texts will include essays by Saussure, Michel Foucault, Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Emma LaRocque, Gayatri Spivak, and others. The array of theoretical approaches will provide students with analytical apparatus and interpretive strategies to choose various points of examinations of research at a graduate level in the Indigenous studies field.

Upon completion of the course, students will be:

- define and demonstrate understanding of theoretical concepts and their theorists in a critical way
- apply theoretical concepts to their MA in FNST projects
- able to communicate their ideas effectively in both oral and written formats

### Required Texts:

- (1) Emma LaRocque, *When the Other is Me*
- (2) Memmi, Albert. *The Colonizer and the Colonized*.
- (3) Gayatri Spivak. *A Critique of Postcolonial reason*.
- (4) FNST 600 readings posted on-line.

### Assignments

#### **LEADING SEMINARS – 2 x 25% = 50% schedule TBD**

You will be asked to briefly summarize the article orally and lead a 20-25 min discussion based on the reading(s). Prepare a critical analysis & a combination of initiating and probing questions to bring out participants' ideas about the issues & article further. Re-visit past contributions, articles, events, your MA project, and incorporate them into the discussion. Ensure you manage the discussion, engage the class, but remember to be respectful of dissenting opinions. If you miss your designated date without speaking to me first, you will get a mark of 0% and no opportunity to do it again. **This oral presentation will be accompanied by a 5 pg double-spaced written response to the article, and will include your discussion questions at the end.**

### **PROPOSAL – 10% October 29, 2021 by 11:59pm**

3 pg double-spaced proposal on what your term paper will be about. Please see the information for the term paper to do this assignment. Submit via Blackboard.

### **TERM PAPER – 40% Friday December 9-17, 2021 by 11:59pm**

One of the central themes we have discussed this semester has been the inseparability of theory and method—understanding and evidence. Theory without data is mere speculation, while data without theory is an incomprehensible mass of observations, hence, with this final paper assignment you have free reign to discuss precisely what interests you (your MA research) and how theory can help inform your thesis & your research. Your job is to write which theory discussed in class + 1 other theory best informs your research project. Students will provide a brief presentation (10 min) of their final paper on the last day of class. Details will be given in class. Submit via Blackboard.

### **Things to Know**

**Academic Dishonesty:** “Plagiarism” is submitting work in a course which is not your own work. **DO NOT RISK IT!** Please refer to the *University of Northern British Columbia’s Code of Academic Honesty* for further information. ***When in doubt about any practice, ask me!***

**Complaints:** Complaint by a student should be communicated to the Professor in person during office hours or in writing. If this cannot be done, either party should agree to go to the Department Chair (who will ask for the complaint to be in writing).

**This is a safe space:** This class will present many different topics, some of them sensitive or discomfoting, and many contradictory; it is designed to develop critical thinking and develop mutual respect. Students should listen respectfully to different perspectives, let people finish sentences before responding, and do not diminish perspectives and opinions of others.

**You can expect me to:** be respectful, on time, prepared for class and available for office hours. I will return assignments within a reasonable time period and answer your e-mails within 24-48 hours.

#### **You are expected to:**

- be respectful, on time, and prepared for class by doing the required readings prior to class. Simply: if you don’t do the readings, don’t bother coming, you will not understand the material discussed.
- Speak up and ask questions in class – I welcome a challenge but please do not be disruptive or disrespectful.
- Keep track of due dates, lecture notes, and submit assignment on their due dates. Late assignments receive one grade deduction per day.
- Give me prior notice of important events/conditions (e.g. disabilities, medical conditions, special needs, child care) in your life that may influence your performance in the class. Note: Once assignments are turned in, my ability to assist you is extremely limited.

**Need help?** *If there are students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for special academic accommodations, please come and discuss this with me, or contact staff at the **Access Resource Centre** ([arc@unbc.ca](mailto:arc@unbc.ca)) located in the Teaching and Learning Centre, Room 10-1048 on the main campus. Students can also call the ARC at (250) 960-5682. Regional students can call the Centre toll-free at 1(888) 960-5682.*

**Need academic support?** *The Academic Success Centre has services available through one-to-one tutoring in room 10-2584, second floor of the Teaching and Learning Building. Drop-in writing support is available on the first floor of the Library. In addition, online support, including online writing tutoring, is available through our website at [www.unbc.ca/asc](http://www.unbc.ca/asc). All services are Free to UNBC students!*

## Course & Readings Schedule

### **SEPTEMBER**

#### **September 17 & 18:**

Friday 5-8pm: Saussure, Highway, Coates

Saturday 9-12: Said, Memmi

**Tuesday October 5: DISCUSSION 5-6 pm OR via blog**

### **OCTOBER**

#### **October 15 & 16:**

Friday 5-8pm: Spivak

Saturday 9-12: Green, NWAC, Tsosie

**Proposal due October 29 via Blackboard by 11:59pm**

**Tuesday November 9: DISCUSSION 5-6pm OR via blog**

### **NOVEMBER**

#### **November 19 & 20:**

Friday 5-8pm: Marx, Althusser, Foucault, Fanon

Saturday 9-12: RCAP, Newhouse

**Tuesday November 30: DISCUSSION 5-6pm OR via blog**

### **DECEMBER**

#### **December 10 & 11:**

Friday 5-8pm: Cajete, Bhabha, LaRocque, Freire

Saturday 9-12: AMC+ student presentations of Term Paper

**Final Paper due December 9-17 via Blackboard by 11:59pm**