**Contextual Theologies: Christianity-Indigenous Encounter**

**United Centre for Theological Studies**
**GTHEO 7277 050**

**Thursday, January 12th, 2017– Thursday, April 13th, 2017**
**6 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

**Room: 1MS25**

**Instructor: James Christie**

**Phone: 204-988-7683; e-mail: j.christie@uwinnipeg.ca**

**Office: 2MS07**

**Office Hours: 1400 – 1600 Tuesdays and Thursdays, and/or by appointment**

**Please note that not all material in this syllabus may be covered in the manner described.**

*"When the school is on the reserve, the child lives with his parents who are savages; he is surrounded by savages, and though he may learn to read and write, his habits and training and modes of thought are Indian. He is simply a savage who can read and write."*

- Prime Minister John A. MacDonald

*"The power of narrative is absolute."*

- John Ralston Saul

*"Story is to religion as math is to science."*

- James Christie

*"For the last hundred years, Aboriginal peoples have been making a comeback – a remarkable comeback from a terrifyingly low point. A low point of population, of legal respect, of civilizational stability. A comeback to what? To a position of power, of influence, of civilizational creativity in the territory we call Canada.'*

- John Ralston Saul

## Course Description

Of all the unmitigated disasters in human history, the fate of the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island at the hands of Europeans for five centuries must come near to the top of the list. This course is intended to address some of the critical events and outcomes of the Christian Indigenous encounter over generations, and to examine such steps forward in reconciliation and relationship as are emerging in the early 21st century.

## Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will have become aware of the broad overview of European Christian-Indigenous encounter, especially focused on recent generations of interaction, and be enabled to bring a degree of understanding, theological acuity and commitment to the mutual journey of the next generation of conversation.

## Class Format

Classes will be of three hour duration, with an all purpose break at mid-point. The course is intended to be based on reading and discussion. Variation in format may include, but will not be restricted to, film and guest speakers.

## Required Texts:

*A Fair Country,* by John Ralston Saul
*Black Robe,* by Brian Moore
*Comeback,* by John Ralston Saul
*In Search of April Raintree,* by Beatrice Culleton Moisionier
*One Nation Under God: the Triumph of the Native American Church,* by Huston Smith
*The Inconvenient Indian,* by Thomas King
*The Orenda,* by Joseph Boyden
*The Reason You Walk,* by Wab Kinew
*Yiddish for Pirates,* by Garry Barwin

**N.B.** Required texts may be obtained through commercial bookstores or through amazon.com.

## Anticipated Sessional Outline

Session 1: *"The power of narrative is absolute:"* on stories and story-telling.

Session 2: *Comeback,* by John Ralston Saul; reading based discussion, intro to the course

Session 3: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Session 4: Residential Schools and the TRC

Session 5: The Churches Respond

Session 6: 94 Recommendations

Session 7: "We are all treaty people:" Peguis and Selkirk

Session 8: Film and discussion

Session 9: The Bill is presented: C-262

Session 10: Film and discussion

Session 11: *Circle and Cross:* One Christian Denomination's Attempt at Redress

Session 12: Final symposium; course wrap up and review; evaluation process.

## Course Requirements

Attendance and active participation in class: **20%**

An annotated bibliography of the books on the required reading list (due, Monday, May 1st, 2017): **30%**

The preparation of a scrapbook of at least 10 articles from such popular periodicals, newspapers or journals as the student may choose, each article to reflect an item of Indigenous concern, and a theological reflection on the content of each (due, Monday, May 1st, 2017): **25%**

A narrative account, in any medium agreed upon by the Instructor and the student, of a visit to and an interview with, a practitioner of Indigenous Spirituality (average, 10 pages; due, Monday, May 1st, 2017) **25%**

**Grade Scale**

| Letter Grade | Numeric Grade | Letter Grade | Numeric Grade | Letter Grade | Numeric Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A+ | 95-100 | B+ | 78-80 | C | 60-67 |
| A | 84-94 | B | 71-77 | D | 50-59 |
| A- | 81-83 | C+ | 68-70 | F | below 50 |

**DO NOT PLAGIARIZE**: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that consists of presenting either someone else's words, including paraphrasing, or someone else's ideas as your own. **REFERENCE YOUR SOURCES CONSISTENLY THROUGHOUT**.

**Form and Style in Academic Writing**

Normally papers submitted for evaluation should be produced with a word processing program, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font, and include a title page, footnotes and bibliography in Chicago Style.

See the latest edition of Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations; Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 8th ed. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, and University of Chicago Press Editorial Staff. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

**Inclusive Language**

The United Centre for Theological Studies encourages the use of inclusive language for human beings and God in both classroom discussions and in academic writing. Inclusive language is that which does not discriminate based on characteristics of gender, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, or minority. Students are expected to take seriously the underlying theological and pastoral issues related to inclusive language. Further explanation of the significance of this aspect in communication can be found in *The Canadian Style: A Guide to Writing and Editing* (available at UofW e-books) and The United Church's inclusive guidelines, which affirm the use of a variety of human and other metaphors, images and pronouns for God in church documents, worship and liturgy.

**Academic Policies**

Students should familiarize themselves with the University of Winnipeg's policies on appeals and academic misconduct such as plagiarism or cheating.
(United Centre for Theological Studies Calendar - Academic Regulations and Policies)

**Withdrawal**

A student who is considering withdrawing from the course is requested to speak with the instructor and check the last date to withdraw without academic penalty in the United Centre for Theological Studies Calendar or by contacting the United Centre for Theological Studies Theology office at (204) 988-7685. To withdraw from a course, students must notify the United Centre for Theological Studies office in person (form available), in writing or by facsimile as a signature is required.

**Security and Community Ambassador Services**

The phone number for UW security guards is 6666 on campus and (204) 786-6666 off campus. In emergencies, police, fire, and ambulance services can be reached by dialing 8-911 on campus. During the fall and winter there are Safe Walk and Safe Ride programs. Both can be contacted by phoning 9272 on campus and will escort faculty, staff, and students to their cars. More information and a personal safety brochure are available at www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/security-index. The UW Security & Community Ambassador Services seeks to guarantee the safety of students, faculty, staff, visitors and other users of University of Winnipeg facilities, while preserving a philosophy of unhindered community access.

**Accessibility Services**

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility.

**Ethics Committee**

Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html for submission requirements and deadlines.

**Respectful Working and Learning Environment**

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

**Scent-Free Environment**

UWinnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.