

**QCST 440 Contemporary Issues in Quebec
First Nations and Environments in Quebec, past and present
Québec Studies Programme**

Instructors' Office Hours and Contact Information:

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:30-12:30 or by appointment

Course Schedule

Tuesday 1h35 pm to 4h25 pm

Place: Peterson Hall 116

Course Description:

This course will examine the relationships between First Nations and environments in Quebec, paying particular attention to how these relationships have been challenged by colonialism and relations with the state and non-native communities. From the sixteenth-century fur trade to contemporary land claims and the challenges brought about by climate change and hydro-electric development, native peoples of Quebec continue to struggle to assert their right to govern their own territories and make use of their environments as they see fit. This course will adopt an historical perspective to better understand the contemporary opportunities and challenges facing First Nations as they advance land claims, co-manage natural resources with provincial and federal government agencies, and make use of local environments to secure sustainable futures for their communities. The approach will be multi-disciplinary, drawing upon scholarship in anthropology, ecology, history, geography, and law. Topics to be discussed may include, but are not limited to, hunting economies, native agriculture, traditional ecological knowledge, territoriality, land claims, the role of the courts, relationships with the environmental movement, and the impact of government policy. The format of the course will rely heavily upon guest speakers drawn from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

Policy for late papers: 1% deduction for every day late.

Evaluation :

<u>Book review:</u>	20%	Due February 9. A list of book titles will be supplied on the first day of class. 5 pages.
<u>Written Response:</u>	10%	2-3 page response to a speaker of your choice which incorporates a critical response to both the speaker and the readings. How does it relate to the presentations of previous speakers and readings? This is not a summary--it is a critical response. Due the week after the presentation in question.
<u>Participation:</u>	10%	
<u>Paper Proposal:</u>	10%	Due March 2.
<u>Research paper:</u>	30%	12-15 page paper on a contemporary aspect of Quebec First Nations and their relationship(s) with their environments that considers the historical context of that issue. Students will construct their topics in consultation with the instructor. Due April 13.
<u>Final exam (Oral)</u>	20%	

Schedule

Session 1: January 5

Introduction

Session 2: January 12

Amerindians and Environments during the French Colonial Period

Denys Delâge (Département de sociologie, Université Laval)

-two chapters from:

Delâge, Denys. *Bitter Feast: Amerindians and Europeans in the American Northeast. 1600-64*
or *Le Pays renversé* (chapters 2 and 3)

-one of the following:

Delâge, Denys. "Microbes, animaux et eau en Nouvelle-France." *Globe. Revue internationale d'études québécoises* 9,
no. 1 (2006): 113-39.

Delâge, Denys, and Paul-André Dubois. "L'eau, les Amérindiens et les Franco-Canadiens: Myths et réalités en
Amérique du Nord au XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles." In *Associazione Italiana di Studi Canadasi - L'eau dans la
culture canadienne. Réalité et métaphore*. Sienne, 2006.

Delâge, Denys. "Gazing Across the Divide: Dogs in the Canadian colonial context."

Session 3: January 19

Amerindians, Hydro-Québec, and the study of environmental change in Québec's North

Claude Demers (Geographer, Hydro-Québec)

Hayeur, Gaëtan. *Summary of Knowledge Acquired in Northern Environments from 1970 to 2000*. Montréal: Hydro-
Québec, 2001.

or

Hayeur, Gaëtan. *Synthèse des connaissances environnementales acquises en milieu nordique de 1970 à 2000*. Montréal:
Hydro-Québec, 2001.

Session 4: January 26

Cree Environmental Knowledge and the Paakumshumwaau-Wemindji Protected Area Project

Colin Scott (Department of Anthropology, McGill University)

Mulrennan, Monica, Véronique Bussières, and Colin Scott. "Tawich (Marine) Conservation Area, Eastern James Bay." *The Wemindji-McGill Protected Area Project*, 2009.

Scott, Colin H. "Spirit and Practical Knowledge in the Person of the Bear among Wemindji Cree Hunters." *Ethnos* 71, no. 1 (2006): 51-66.

Scott, Colin H. "Knowledge Construction Among the Cree Hunters: Metaphors and literal understanding." *Journal de la Société des Américanistes* 75, no. 1 (1989): 193-208.

Wemindji, Cree Nation of. "Paakumshumwaau-Maatuskaau Protected Area: A proposal to the Ministère du Développement durable de l'Environnement et des Parcs, Québec." 2006.

Session 5: February 2

Haudenosaunee Environmental Ethics and Practice

Stuart Myiow (Mohawk Traditional Council, Kahnawake)

Nadasdy, Paul. "The Gift in the Animals: The ontology of hunting and human-animal sociality." *American Ethnologist* 34, no. 1 (2007): 25-43.

-websites and press releases on WebCT

Session 6: February 9 (*Book review due*)

Labrador Innu Land Claims and Territorial Governance

Larry Innes (Lawyer, Innu Nation, Labrador; Executive Director, Canadian Boreal Initiative)

Scott, Colin. "On Autonomy and Development." In *Aboriginal Autonomy and Development in Northern Quebec and Labrador*, edited by Colin Scott. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2001.

Nadasdy, Paul. "The Politics of TEK: Power and the 'integration' of knowledge." *Arctic Anthropology* 36, no. 1-2 (1999): 1-18.

Barron, Jennifer. "In the Name of Solidarity: The politics of representation and articulation in support of the Labrador Innu." *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 11, no. 3 (2000): 87-112.

Session 7: February 16

Akwesasne Field Trip

8:30-10 Travel Montreal-Cornwall.

10am - Noon: (*St. Lawrence River Institute*)

Presentation by Brendan White, Communications Director, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, and Richard David, Assistant Director of the Environmental Department of Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

Showing of Parks Canada Film "Voice of Akwesasne,"

Lunch: Noon - 1pm: (*Knead Your Dough*)

Lunch at the above restaurant located at the Peace Tree Mall on Cornwall Island (between Noon and 1pm) with presenters.

1pm - 3pm: (*MCA Environment (@CIA3 Boardroom)*)

Meeting with Dave Arquette (Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force) and Elizabeth Naticoke (MCA's Environment Department).

3pm -4pm: (Ronathahonni Cultural Center and Museum)

Tour of the Ronathahonni Cultural Center and Museum on Cornwall Island.

4-5:30: Travel Akwesasne-Montreal

READING BREAK

Session 8: March 2 (*Proposal due*)

Science, Hydro-electric Development and the James Bay Cree

Alan Penn (Scientific Advisor, Cree Regional Authority) **and Catherine Lussier** (Independent Consultant)

For readings, follow reading instructions on Web CT, paying close attention to Alan Penn's annotated bibliography.

Session 9: March 9

Inuit Environmental Management

Michael Barrett and Laina Grey (Kativik Regional Government)

For readings, follow instructions on WebCT which refer to a number of websites

Session 10: March 16

The Oka Crisis and Mohawk Land

Ellen Gabriel (President, Femmes Autochtones du Québec / Quebec Native Women)

-For readings, follow instructions on Web CT:

Snyderman, George S. "Concepts of Land Ownership among the Iroquois and their Neighbors." *BAE, Bulletin* 149, (1951): 15-34.

Trudel, Pierre. "De la négation de l'autre dans les discours nationalistes des Québécois et des autochtones." *Recherches amérindiennes au Québec* 25, no. 4 (1995): 53-66.

Bryan, Bradley. "Property as Ontology: On Aboriginal and English understandings of ownership." *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence* 13, no. 1 (2000): 3-31.

-excerpts from Gabriel-Doxtater, Brenda Katlatont, and Arlette Kawanatatie Van den Hende. *At the Woods' Edge: An anthology of the history of the people of Kaneshatà:ke*. Kanesatake, Québec: Kanesatake Education Center, 1995.

Powless, Irving Jr. "The Sovereignty and Land Rights of the Houdenosaunee." In *Iroquois Land Claims*, edited by Christopher Vecsey and William A. Starna. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1988.

Session 11: March 23

Quebec First Nations and Environments on the International Stage

Ronald Niezen (Department of Anthropology, McGill University) **and Kenneth Deer** (former editor of the Eastern Door; co-chair of the Indigenous Caucus, United Nations)

-two chapters of Ronald Niezen, *The Origins of Indigenism*

-the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Session 12: March 30

Film: The Invisible Nation / Ue Peuple Invisible

Leroux et al. *Au pays des peaux de chagrin*

(see instructions and scanned chapters on WebCT)

Session 13: April 6

Field Trip to Kahnawake

Session 14 : April 13

Concluding Course (*Research Paper due*)