

**HISTORY 3896G**  
**Ubuntu: Indigenous Perspectives in Global History**  
**Winter 2022-23**  
**Monday 9:30am-12:30pm**  
**In-person**

**Instructor: Professor Ruramisai Charumbira**  
Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00 pm or by Appointment  
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**This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.**

**Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic**

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line synchronously (i.e., on Zoom at the times indicated in the timetable) / asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience) [delete as necessary]. The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

**Invocation:** To the Sun, in whose tight embrace we and other planets travel the Cosmos free of charge, we are grateful. To the Earth, the ground of our being, we are grateful. To all fellow creatures on this planet, on land, in the air, and waters, we are grateful; we apologize that our human ways have ravaged your ways of life in the recent past. To our personal and collective ancestors, we are grateful, and we shall right the wrongs. *We are grateful to, and acknowledge the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, whose traditional territories are where this course shall take place.*

**Course Description:**

This course valorizes the once-maligned cosmologies, ontologies, and epistemologies of humans, and other beings, indigenous to lands and waters colonized by Western Europeans in what we today call Africa, the Americas, Asia and Oceanic Islands globally. While it is assumed that all humans are indigenous to this planet, the course valorizes an integrative approach to global history, one that does not see humans as apex predators entitled to the Earth, its beings, and its history over all others who call this planet home. The course is grounded in our reciprocal relationships with one another and the planet what in Southern Africa is called in different languages *Botho/Hunhu/Ubuntu*. For example, the power of empathy found in trees that offer us and other beings their oxygen in return for our carbon dioxide. In the global perspectives we will consider in this course, Indigenous ways will inform how we understand History, what it means to be human, and how to flourish in reciprocity, and respect for this Earth, our ground of being in the Cosmos.

**Course Syllabus:**

TBA

**Course Materials:** (May include all or excerpts from these texts and others)

P. Kyle Crossley, *What is Global History?*  
John G. Neihardt, *Black Elk Speaks*  
Linda T. Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies*  
Sylvia Vollenhoven, *The Keeper of the Kumm*  
Malidoma Patrice Sôme, *Of Water and the Spirit*  
Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Gathering Moss*  
Wangari Maathai, *Replenishing the Earth*  
Coates, *A Global History of Indigenous Peoples*

**Methods of Evaluation:**

- \* 20% - Attendance, Active Preparation & Participation
- \* 20% - Map Quizzes—one individual, the other collective @ 10% each
- \* 30% - Individual Reflection Journal
- \* 30% - Team Project and Presentation

*Life happens, so students can miss a maximum of two seminar meetings in order to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments.*

**Accommodation for missed tests/midterms:**

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up test. The make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Online courses will have online make-up tests.

For in-person classes, make-up tests will be written at one of the Department of History make-up midterms. Dates for the make-ups will be listed on the Department of History website under [Important Dates](#).

IMPORTANT: In the event the University moves to online learning make-up tests will take place online via OWL. The date for the make-up may differ from the date listed above.

No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by Academic Counselling. Students who fail to write a make-up test in a designated time slot will receive a grade of zero on that assessment.

Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test slots.

**Use of Electronic Devices:**

Respect is important, both in and outside the classroom. In the classroom it includes waiting your turn, being respectful of different points of view on different issues and leading with heart and mind. The class including watching films as well as close reading of texts electronically and in print, this means there will be short breaks during the three hours of class time. To that end, please keep your devices in silent (without vibration) mode or *airplane mode* or *turn off and store* until breaktime or after class.

**Additional Statements:**

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document,

<https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness

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