

HISTORY 3870F

Uncolonized Global Histories

| Fall 2023 |

Instructor: **Prof. Ruramisai Charumbira**

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This is a draft syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

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 on this planet. To all our personal and collective ancestors, we are grateful. We are grateful to, and acknowledge the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, among others, whose traditional territories are where this course takes place.

Course Description

This course valorizes the once-maligned cosmologies, ontologies, and epistemologies of humans, and other beings, indigenous to lands and waters once colonized by Western Europeans. While all humans are indigenous to this planet, the course affords students the opportunity to learn other ways of knowing and writing history through the eyes of those whose histories have always included human and other planetary beings in the telling of history. This valorization of all planetary beings in the telling of history is thus grounded in our reciprocal relationships with one another what some cultures in (Southern) Africa call Ubuntu /Hunhu/ Botho...

Course Syllabus

- * Define a major concept of uncolonized histories
- * Demonstrate a historian's intellectual independence through the careful reading of primary and secondary sources, and writing nuanced reflection essays
- * Demonstrate research skills for original research through final essay.

Methods of Evaluation

- * 20% - Attendance, Active Preparation & Participation
- * 50% - Five Individual Reflection Essays at 10% each
- * 30% - Final Essay

Absences and Late Assignments:

- Students with an approved absence from an in-class assignment 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 assignment. For the

university's policies on this, see the following: [Absence & Academic Consideration](#), the university's policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#), and the Department of History's own [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#), for department procedures and requirements.

- Students must attend at least ten of our twelve seminar meetings in order to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments.
- Students must submit all course assignments in order to pass the course.
- Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling.

COURSE MATERIALS (may include some of the following):

David Gordon and Shepard Krech III, eds., *Indigenous Knowledge and the Environment in Africa and North America*

Linda T. Smith, *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*

Sylvia Vollenhoven, *The Keeper of the Kumm: Ancestral Longing and Belonging...*

Malidoma Patrice Sôme, *Of Water and the Spirit: Ritual, Magic, and Initiation...*

Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Moss*

Pamela Kyle Crossley, *What is Global History?*

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Sept 7:	Introduction to Course and One Another
Week 2 Sept 11:	Indigenous to Planet and to Place
Week 3 Sept 18:	Knowledge without Possession
Week 4 Sept 25:	Indigenous Knowledge Restitution
Week 5 Oct 02:	Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Science
Week 6 Oct 09:	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Week 7 Oct 16:	Spirituality without Religion
Week 8 Oct 23:	Of Genders and Sexualities
Week 9 Oct 30:	READING WEEK

Week 10 Nov 06:	Reclaiming the Ancestor
Week 11 Nov 13:	Praise Songs for the Earth
Week 12 Nov 20:	Recap and Review
Week 13 Nov 27:	Individual Consultation and Work Revising Final Essay
Week 14 Dec 04:	FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Additional Statements

Communication policies: I am available via email and office hours in-person or on Zoom.

Classroom behavior: 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 classroom interaction includes watching films as well as close reading of texts electronically and in print.

Use of electronic devices: 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 better, in airplane mode and store until breaktime and after class.

Use of generative AI tools: The use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be properly documented and cited. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.