



About This Course

This course will help you envision how Indigenous histories, perspectives, worldviews, and approaches to learning can be made part of the work we do in classrooms, organizations, communities, and our everyday experiences in ways that are thoughtful and respectful. In this course, reconciliation emphasizes changing institutional structures, practices, and policies, as well as personal and professional ideologies to create environments that are committed to strengthening our relationships with Indigenous peoples.

For educators, this means responding to educational reforms that prioritize improved educational outcomes for Indigenous learners. In addition, educators must support all learners to develop their knowledge and understanding of Indigenous people's worldviews and cultures as a basis for creating equitable and inclusive learning spaces. To support these goals, teachers, administrators, young people, school staff, and researchers will learn from Indigenous Elders, educational leaders, and culturally relevant learning resources as part of their experiences in this course.

For others who want to build their own competence and the capacity of those around them to engage with in relationships with Indigenous peoples based on intercultural understanding, empathy, and respect, this course will help get you get started in this process.



Course Objectives

- Explore personal and professional histories and assumptions in relationship to Indigenous peoples histories and worldviews.
- Deepen understanding and knowledge of colonial histories and current realities of Indigenous people.
- Engage with Indigenous worldviews and perspectives that contextualize and support your understanding of the theories and practices of Indigenous education.
- Develop strategies that contribute to the enhancement of Indigenous-settler relations in schools, organizations, and communities.
- Explore Indigenous worldviews and learning approaches for their application to the classroom or community learning setting.
- Engage in personal and professional discussions in an online environment with others committed to understanding and advancing reconciliation.



Course Structure

Over the course of the six weeks, we will move through a set of topics that focus on changing ideologies and the way we do things in schools. Each topic will begin with a short **introduction**, which provides key concepts that the topic is intended to develop and introduces participants to what they can anticipate in the topic. Other elements within each topic include:

- A narration from Indigenous Elders or knowledge keepers, which will provide a **cultural context** for understanding ideas that will be developed in the topic.
- Videos and materials intended to **inform practice through research and experts in the field**.
- **Educator supports** that draw on a range of resources that enhance our understanding of Indigenous education concepts for application in classrooms and schools.
- **Activities** that are designed to help bring together and consolidate the new understandings that have emerged for you through each of the course's topics.
- **Additional resources** that include relevant materials that may have been mentioned in the topic or that seek to enhance your understanding of the topic.
- Self-assessed **completion checklists** that will help you to reflect on your work in each topic and ensure you have completed tasks associated with each topic. These checklists are due by the end of the course and will be worth 15% of your final mark.
- **Concluding thoughts** that summarize or extend conversations by participants that have taken place in discussion forums.



Course Activities and Assignments

- Course Agreements (5%)
- Weekly Completion Checklists (15%)

Topic 1 (Opens January 24th)

- Activity: Word Cloud
- Activity: Discussion Responses

Topic 2 (Opens January 31st)

- Activity: Discussion Responses
- Assignment 1: Evaluating Web-Based Resources (25%)
- Activity: Share Your Resource

Topic 3 (Opens February 7th)

- Quiz: Identify the First Peoples Learning Principles in Practice (20%)
- Activity: Framework Discussion

Topic 4 (Opens February 14th)

- Activity: Share An Indigenous Storytelling Resource
- Activity: Storytelling Discussion

Topic 5 (Opens February 21st)

- Activity: Discussion Post and Responses

Topic 6 (Opens February 28th)

- Assignment 2: Inviting Indigenous Participation Proposal Letter (35%)
- Activity: Wrap-Up Discussion



Communication

The format of the course does not support direct email with the instructor. Rather, all communication takes place using the Questions for Course Staff topic located in the Discussions area, which can be found by using the Discussion tool at the top of the main menu. The Instructor and Teaching Assistants will respond to content related queries.

If you require technical support, please click on the Help tab located on the left edge of your course browser window. This will lead you to support from edX.

Each week you will receive an announcement that will describe weekly activities and requirements. We will finish the week with concluding thoughts.