

## **IPT5/714: Indigenous Ways of Knowing**

Weekends: September 12&13; October 10&11; November 14&15

Vancouver School of Theology

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This introductory course offers an opportunity to explore Indigenous, North American principles and teachings focusing on the Northwest Coast, and the sweat lodge and vision quest fast traditions through dialogue, media and assigned readings.

Students will meet monthly to discuss assigned readings in open dialogue. We will inquire into community and national perceptions of Indigenous identity, conditioned thought patterns, and how conditioning impacts personal exposure to literature and media.

This course will assist students with inquiring into the Indigenous mind as a way of thinking and being rather than a concept of identity and separation. Throughout discussions and writings, all are supported to explore personal and collective experiences past and present.

Throughout all exploration, the emphasis will be on foundational spiritual teachings from Indigenous ancestral protocol and the teachings of Christ.

### *Competencies*

The intention of this course is to prepare students to inquire more deeply into the spiritual dynamics of oppression and the ancestral teachings that offer a pathway toward conscious presence. Upon completion of this course students will have had the opportunity to:

- discuss the dynamics of oppression and how they relate to colonization in Canada
- identify the crucial aspects and nature of acculturation through schooling
- demonstrate the ability to integrate the concepts from the required and reserved readings in class discussions
- articulate personal experience to the course subject material and written, images and discussion formats
- initiate and facilitate a discussion on the weekly topics

### *Class Format*

The class will meet for three weekends for a total of 30 hours of class time (6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Fr & 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Sat) in the Fall. Each weekend will consist of two 15 minute presentations (by instructor and/or student) with dialogue following each presentation. There will be an experiential Indigenous ceremony and ritual on all three Saturdays.

Both Friday and Saturday will include class and small group dialogue on the required and reserved readings with presentations to the class followed by discussions. Students need to be prepared to be engaged in dialogue with the knowledge they possess and acquire as they progress in the course. There will be additional reserved readings from various sources and possibly the opportunity to access the knowledge and skill of one of the curators at the Museum of Anthropology.

Students are expected to have read the Hammerschlag book before the first class and the other two texts before the second weekend.

### Credit and Course Level

The levels of academic work will be offered to:

- Audit: by permission of instructor. Student is required to be part of class discussions, and will be expected to do all the reading
- Certificate: student is required to complete all the reading assignments and participate in class discussions and write a short reflective paper
- Basic degree: MATS / MDiv / MA PPL / MA IIS completion of all reading and assignments and class participation is required
- Advanced degree: ThM completion of all reading and assignments and class participation is required

### Required Reading

Carl A. Hammerschlag, The Dancing Healers, HarperCollins Publishers (UBC Bookstore)

Thich Nhat Hanh, The Miracle of Mindfulness, Beacon Press (UBC Bookstore)

J. Krishnamurti, Krishnamurti to Himself, HarperCollins Publishers (UBC Bookstore)

### Additional Reading on Reserve

The articles and chapters for additional readings will be given out on the first day of class

### Course Requirements

Attendance to all classes and participation in daily discussions

Completion of monthly readings

Completion of a monthly personal journal which outlines the pivotal points of understanding

Participation in class dialogue

Class presentation on one of the class topics and/or essay on one of the class topics or discussions

*Specific requirements according to student status will be presented on the first day of class.*

### Policies

Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus for each course. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. Repeated failure to submit assignments on time may affect the final grade for the course.

### Class Schedule

September 12&13	October 10 & 11	November 14 & 15
Orientation, Introductions, Discussions	The nature of suffering & pain Discussions	Without judgement Discussions
The dynamics of oppression Mindfulness: the hunter, sacred stories	To observe and to see The heart mind connection Ceremony and Ritual: the line	The Sacred Line Altered State of Consciousness The Supernatural
Conqueror and conquered Socialization Ceremony	Field Trip Conditioned Mind & Distortion	Presentations Ceremony & Closure

## Course Bibliography

- Bastien, B., Kremer, J.W., Kuokkanen, R. & Vickers, P. "Healing the impact of colonization, genocide, and racism on Indigenous populations." In *The psychological impact of war trauma on civilians, an international perspective*, ed. Stanley Krippner & Teresa M. McIntyre. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 2003.
- Battiste, Marie. *Reclaiming Indigenous voice and vision*. Ed. Marie Battiste. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press, 2000.
- Berger, Thomas R. *A long and terrible shadow white values, native rights in the Americas 1492-1992*. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1991.
- Campbell, Kenneth. *Persistence and change, a history of the Ts'msyen Nation*. Prince Rupert: First Nations Education Services SD #52 & The Tsimshian Chiefs & Matriarchs, 2005.
- Freire, Paulo. *Pedagogy of the oppressed*. New York: Continuum, 1995.
- Law Commission of Canada. *Restoring dignity responding to child abuse in Canadian institutions*. Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services, 2000.
- Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. *Volume 3: Gathering Strength*. Ottawa: Canada Communication Group, 1996.
- Sivaraksa, S., Bhikkhu, S., & Rothberg, D. "Structural violence and spirituality: socially engaged Buddhist perspectives," in *ReVision: a journal of consciousness and transformation* 20,2. (1997): 38-42.
- Turner, Nancy J. *The earth's blanket: traditional teachings for sustainable living*. Vancouver, BC: Douglas & McIntyre, 2005.
- Vickers, P.J. "The colonial mind in post-secondary education," in *McGill Journal of Education* 37, 2 (2002): 241-254.
- Vickers, P.J. "Sayt k'ilim goot (Of one heart): transforming suffering," in *The American Indian Quarterly* 29, 3&4. (2005): 691-706.
- Vickers, P.J. "Ayaawx (Ts'msyen ancestral law): the power of transformation" (PhD diss., University of Victoria, 2008).