IPT5/714: Indigenous Ways of Knowing
Weekends: September 12&13; October 10&11; November 14&15
Vancouver School of Theology
Fall 2014
Instructor: Patricia J. Vickers
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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
Thich Nhat Hanh, *The Miracle of Mindfulness*, Beacon Press (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

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


Vickers, P.J. “Ayaawx (Ts’msyen ancestral law): the power of transformation” (PhD diss., University of Victoria, 2008).