

NDW – Contemporary Indigenous Voices in a Global Perspective

For Students

What is the difference between the NBE (Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices) and NDW?

	NBE Grade 11	NDW Grade 12
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NBE course, run in the Modern Languages Department, and explores contemporary Indigenous voices and artistic expressions, primarily in Canada with a literary focus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDW course, run in the Canada World Studies Department, and explores contemporary Indigenous perspectives and experiences in a global context.
Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore different forms of Indigenous fiction, non-fiction, and artistic expressions, such as oral traditions, contemporary storytelling, film, music, poetry, documentaries, media images. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore historical and contemporary Indigenous experiences and global perspectives, such as colonization, decolonization, traditional knowledge, and the diversity of Indigenous cultures, languages, and worldviews.
Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop critical thinking skills, cultural awareness, and appreciation for Indigenous storytelling and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop critical thinking and political inquiry skills, as well as cultural awareness, of Indigenous perspectives in a global context.
Sample Curriculum Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze a variety of Indigenous literary works, including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, to understand Indigenous perspectives and experiences in Canada and around the world. Explore the use of oral traditions and storytelling in Indigenous cultures, including the role of elders and community in passing on knowledge and traditions. Analyze the use of film and other visual media in expressing Indigenous perspectives and experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze historical and contemporary Indigenous perspectives and experiences, including the diversity of Indigenous cultures and worldviews, the impacts of colonization, and the processes of decolonization. Examine the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the land, including traditional knowledge and ecological sustainability. Evaluate the impacts of colonial policies and practices on Indigenous peoples, including the residential school system and the Sixties Scoop.

How can this course support your post-secondary education?

- Be an active participant in reconciliation.
- Be better prepared to take future courses in Indigenous Studies, which many post-secondary programs now require.
- Interested in Environmental Studies? Indigenous peoples account for 6% of the global population and live on a quarter of the world's surface but contribute to 80% of its remaining biodiversity. ([Article: Indigenous Knowledges and Climate Change](#)). Prepare for further learning by investigating the benefits of incorporating and collaborating with Indigenous peoples for resource management and responding to Climate Crises.
- Interested in Political Science? Indigenous peoples are the fastest growing demographic in Canada. ([Webpage: University of Waterloo](#)) and this course explores Indigenous political structures and leadership approaches.
- Interested in Education? The NDW course allows for investigation of the two-eyed seeing model and Indigenous ways of knowing, assisting in planning for future generations as providing guidance for how we approach complex issues facing peoples in a global context. ([Article: Indigenous Foundation](#))
- Interested in Science? Many scientists now draw on Indigenous ways of knowing to fully understand the natural world; there are many instances of Western Scientists 'discovering' what Indigenous Peoples have known for thousands of years. ([Article: The Smithsonian](#))
- Interested in Law? Understanding current realities for Indigenous Peoples is essential – there are countless legal battles happening regarding land rights, treaties and The Indian Act, along with understanding the systemic racism that led to the disproportionate number of Indigenous Peoples in the prison system. This is also essential knowledge for policy making. ([Article: Canadian Lawyer](#))
- Interested in Medicine? Reengagement with health practices that are disrupted by colonialism would decrease the health challenges facing Indigenous peoples. ([Article: Canadian Medical Education Journal](#))

What Are NDW Students Saying About the Course?

- "I like being able to listen to Indigenous leaders speak about their history, share their knowledge, and discuss Indigenous people's interactions with government(s) around the world."
- "The way this course is applying to my everyday life and this generation is very important."
- "The best learning from the NDW course is we get to understand how various problems affected Indigenous peoples, as well as learning about events that I've never heard about before because they weren't talked about as much as they should've been."
- "I like that I can demonstrate my knowledge in this course in a variety of ways."

