



DEPARTMENT of Nursing Education and Health Studies

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2025

NS2220 (A2/B2/C2): Indigenous Health in Canada – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

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RN

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OFFICE HOURS: By
Appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course is offered in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and is the beginning step to culturally safe interaction and practice. Focus is on introducing students to a variety of historical realities and contemporary issues relevant to Indigenous health in Canada. Students will examine issues and contributions facing settler relations from a historical, contemporary and critical perspective, with a focus on health and well-being. Students not enrolled in the Nursing Program require permission of the department.

PREREQUISITE(S):

There are no prerequisites for this course.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Douglas, V. (2020). An introduction to Indigenous health and healthcare in Canada.
Bridging Health and Healing. 2 ed. Springer Publishing.

Please note that in some weeks there will also be additional readings listed on the current week on the myClass page.

Canadian Nurses Association. (2017). *Code of ethics for registered nurses*. Retrieved from <https://www.cna-aicc.ca/~media/cna/page-content/pdf-en/code-of-ethics-2017-edition-secure-interactive.pdf?la=en>

College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta. (2011). *Primary health care: Vision, roles, and opportunities*. Edmonton, AB: Author. Retrieved from https://www.nurses.ab.ca/docs/default-source/document-library/position-statements/primary-care-vision-roles-opportunities.pdf?sfvrsn=319160d5_14

College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (2010). *Ethical decision-making for registered nurses in Alberta: Guidelines and recommendations*. Edmonton: Author. Retrieved from https://www.nurses.ab.ca/docs/default-source/document-library/guidelines/rn-ethical-decisions-making.pdf?sfvrsn=d714472f_10

College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta. (2011). *Professional boundaries for registered nurses: Guidelines for the nurse-client relationship*. Edmonton, AB: Author. Retrieved from http://www.nurses.ab.ca/content/dam/carna/pdfs/DocumentList/Guidelines/RN_ProfessionalBoundaries_May2011.pdf

DELIVERY MODE(S):

In person delivery. This course is delivered on GPRH NWP HEC campus. There are onsite requirements. Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca

Note: NWP reserves the right to change the course delivery.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Understand the historical and contemporary realities relevant to Indigenous health in Canada.
2. Develop self-awareness about Indigenous peoples relationship to colonialism and its impacts.
3. Examine our own attitudes and beliefs of Indigenous histories and cultures in Canada.
4. Develop and explore cultural humility.
5. Develop an understanding of Indigenous teachings and practices through interactions with Indigenous knowledge keepers and elders.
6. Reflect and critically analyze perceptions and knowledge through / in Indigenous worldviews.
7. Understand the major healthcare issues facing Indigenous peoples in Canada today in the context of social determinants of health.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions.**

Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.

EVALUATIONS:

Assignments/Course components	Dates	Weight	Objective
Weekly Knowledge Checks – content will be tested from the assigned weekly readings from textbook. Knowledge checks will be completed during class time.	Weekly in each class.	25%	1, 7
Weekly Discussion Forums – Students will engage in a weekly discussion forum. <i>The intention of the forum is to display acquisition of knowledge, application of concepts, critical thinking, and insight in relation to the content presented each week.</i> The forum posting will be due each week on Sunday by 11:59pm. No exceptions or extensions will be given.	Due by Sunday at 11:59 pm, each week of the course starting Week 2.	20%	2, 3, 6
Group Selection Deadline Select groups of 4 on myClass page by the deadline. Failure to do will automatically enroll in random groups after deadline.	Sept. 21 at 11:59PM	Complete/Not Complete	
Group Contract Deadline Group contracts are submitted and agreed upon by all individuals.	Sept. 28 at 11:59PM	Complete/Not Complete	
Indigenous Healthcare Solutions Group Paper One paper per group	October 19 th at 11:59PM	20%	1, 7
In-Class Presentation - Group Outline - Group Presentation	Nov. 2 by 23:59PM Nov. 23 by 23:59PM	5% 25%	5, 6, 7
Class Participation: Be present and active in each class, participate in large class and smaller group discussions.	Weekly	5%	5, 6



1. Weekly Knowledge Checks 25%

Content will be tested from the assigned weekly readings. Knowledge checks will be completed on myClass and each student will independently complete the quiz to consolidate their class learning for the week during class time as scheduled by the instructor. 20-minute allotments to complete the knowledge checks in class. In-person attendance is mandatory to complete knowledge checks with no exceptions unless determined with the instructor prior to the scheduled class date.

2. Critical Reflections 20%

Being able to reflect is essential to nursing practice. Students will engage in a weekly discussion forum. The intention of the reflections is to display acquisition of knowledge, application of concepts, critical thinking, reflection, and insight in relation to the content presented each week. The guiding and/or reflective prompts/questions/scenarios will help you to explore your own thoughts, feelings, and experiences surrounding Indigenous health in Canada and consider how this learning will change your nursing practice. Each student will respond with a thorough response following the criteria below by each weekly deadline date. No exceptions for extension due to weekly timeline.

Evaluation Criteria:
Reflexivity: Writing conveys the student's point of view, personal understanding, or experience in relation to the question (s) posed. Writer asks questions or challenges assumptions. /5 mark
Writing: Text is descriptive, clear and concise. Adheres to 250-500 word limit. No spelling or grammatical errors. /5 mark

3. Group Contracts (Complete/Not Complete)

Group Contracts are to be submitted by the assigned due date on myClass in the appropriate assignment dropbox. All group members must contribute equally and uphold their shared duties in the established group contract to receive grading for this assignment and group presentation. Failure to uphold your assigned contributions will result in a grade of zero.

4. Indigenous Healthcare Solutions Paper 20%

This assignment is to assist students in acquiring a deeper understanding of health issues Indigenous people face within the healthcare organization and solutions that can aid in closing those gaps for Indigenous people within Canada.

- Each group will research a current issue Indigenous people have faced from the gaps within a healthcare system. The group will find a current Canadian news article or research publication on a current health inequity encounter an Indigenous

person has faced and provide at least three recommendations on how nurses can help break the barriers and close the gaps within the healthcare system for Indigenous peoples.

- Assignment must include 3 headings clearly answering the following:

- 1). Description of the incident related to health equity.
 - 2). Your opinion as to why the incident occurred within the healthcare system.
 - 3). Minimum of three recommendations describing how nurses can assist in changing the outcome of the incident if future occurrences were to take place.
- Minimum 1000 words to a maximum of 1300 words required. APA 7th edition formatting including title page and reference page for citing event source.
 - To be submitted in a word or PDF document on myClass page in the applicable 'Assignment' dropbox
 - Rubric on myClass page.

3. In-Class Presentation: 30%

In your groups you are asked to create and present on the topic you have selected. The digital presentation should either be in the form of an electronic poster, a photovoice, a video and/or PowerPoint on an issue relevant to Indigenous health in Canada. Your presentation may address any number of different issues as long as they fall within the concepts discussed throughout the course in sections. Concepts related to this course can be found on myClass on the course schedule. Your presentation will include the following:

- **Group Outline (5%)** - The group outline will be one page in length following the formatting guidelines available on MyClass. The purpose of the group outline is to provide a concise description of the topic or issue your presentation will address, the goals of the presentation, how you will present your work (presentation) and what your presentation will be about. Literature must be integrated and referenced using current APA guidelines (minimum of 2 resources) to support the importance of choosing your topic. If group outline is judged to be underdeveloped, you may be asked for a revised copy to be submitted. In such case the original mark will not be modified. The group outline is submitted as one assignment for all group members.
- **Presentation (25%)** - The 10-minute digital presentation must demonstrate your group's ability to integrate relevant resource materials (ex: photographs, graphs, brochures, etc.) to engage your audience and have them develop a deeper understanding of your topic/issue related to Indigenous Health. The presentation will be evaluated for content, connection to nursing practice, critical thinking and relevance, interactive and creativity, images, and APA referencing. Rubric for grading is posted to myClass for review. All group members must contribute equally and uphold to their shared duties to the established group contract to receive grading for this assignment. Further details below.

Group Presentation Assignment Details:

Working with your group, you will create and deliver a **10-minute presentation** to the class.



This assignment provides an opportunity to explore important issues related to Indigenous health and connect them directly to nursing practice. Choose one of the following topics to explore deeper and adhere to the presentation requirements.

Presentation Requirements:

- Each presentation (regardless of topic) must include **1–2 slides** on how your chosen topic can be incorporated into nursing practice.
- Your presentation should include:
 1. **Background information** on the chosen topic.
 2. **Relevance to nursing practice** – how nurses can apply this knowledge in real settings.
 3. **Importance of the topic** – why this issue matters for nurses, patients, and healthcare.
 4. **References** – minimum of 5 scholarly or credible sources in proper APA format.
- Creativity is encouraged! Some examples you may use are visuals, case examples, scenarios, or interactive elements.

Topic Options (choose one):

- A current issue Indigenous people face due to gaps in the healthcare system and strategies to close these gaps.
- A current health inequity experienced by an Indigenous person, with at least three nursing recommendations to help reduce barriers and close the gap.
- An issue related to Indigenous health in Canada connected to interpersonal violence.
- A topic related to one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action #18–24.
- A topic related to Culture and Spirituality of Indigenous Peoples, including strategies nurses can use to respectfully incorporate cultural knowledge into practice.
- A topic related to intergenerational trauma and ways nurses can support Indigenous patients and families.
- “What is your call to action?” – Identify one of the 7 health-related TRC Calls to Action and outline nursing activities that support it

4. Guest Speaker and Class Participation: 5%

- There are many guest speakers being invited as guests to our classrooms and providing us their valuable time to assist us with our classrooms learning. Being present and engaged is crucial to continue collaborative partnerships to enhance student learning. All classes include group discussion, reflection, and activities; therefore, participation is imperative for learning. The instructor will assign a grade based on individual student classroom participation. The parameters include being present and active in each class and participating in large class and smaller group discussions.

GRADING CRITERIA: (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is less than C-.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Please refer to the myClass page for class schedule.

Turnitin Disclosure:

As part of NWP's commitment to academic integrity, all written assignments submitted by students will be reviewed using Turnitin software, an online plagiarism detection tool, to verify originality and ensure academic integrity. Turnitin compares student work to a vast database of academic sources, publications, and previously submitted assignments to identify potential instances of plagiarism or improper citation(s). By enrolling in this course, students acknowledge and consent to the use of Turnitin for assignment submissions.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Please refer to the Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy on the main NWP website.

<https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=69>

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

To obtain credit in the course ALL assignments, examinations, and quizzes must be completed. Students are expected to make every effort to complete assignments on time. Assignment submissions are expected on the date determined by faculty. If extensions are necessary, they may be requested up to 48 hours prior to the assignment due date, and should be submitted in writing to the faculty member involved for review. Not all extensions will be granted. In exceptional situations, extension requests within the 48-hour period may be considered. Late assignments will have 5% of total marks (or one letter grade) for the assignment deducted for each day/partial day (including weekend days) beyond the due time. For example, a paper



marked at B+ would receive an adjusted grade of B if handed in one day late. After 5 days, a grade of 0 will be awarded to the assignment. Papers/assignments may not be rewritten for a higher grade. When submitting assignments electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure the assignment has been received. Concerns regarding grading are to be discussed with the faculty member involved.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.