



DEPARTMENT of Practical Nurse and Health Care Aide in the School of Health

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

NS2220 (EC): Indigenous Health in Canada – 3 (3-x-x) 45 Hours for 6 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.

INSTRUCTOR:	Alise Rombs, MN, RN	PHONE:	780-538-2897
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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 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.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Asynchronous

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 the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a 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	Due by Sunday at 23:59h each week.	30%	1, 7
Weekly Critical Reflections	Due by Sunday at 23:59 PM, each week.	20%	2, 3, 6
Indigenous Healthcare Solutions Paper	Friday January 23 rd , 2026, by 23:59PM	20%	1, 7
Indigenous Digital Presentation	Wednesday February 11 th 2026, by 23:59PM	30%	5, 6, 7

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Weekly Knowledge Checks 30%



Content will be tested from the assigned weekly readings found on the myClass page.

Knowledge checks will be completed on myClass and each student will independently complete the quiz to consolidate their class learning for the week by each week Sunday at 23:59h. 30-minute allotments to complete the knowledge checks. No extensions will be given due to weekly timeline.

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 of each Sunday by 23:59h. 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. 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 student 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 and clearly answer the following:
 - 1). Description of the incident related to health inequity.
 - 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. Follows APA 7th

edition formatting includes 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' dropdown. Rubric available on myClass page.

4. Indigenous Digital Presentation (30%):

The 10-minute digital presentation must demonstrate your ability to integrate relevant resource materials (ex: photographs, graphs, 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. You will be required to record yourself presenting the digital presentation, OR you can voice-over your presentation as if you are presenting. Any speaker notes also need to be submitted as a secondary attachment to the same submission with APA referencing/citations as required following APA 7th edition. Further details below.

- **Presentation Assignment Details:**

You will create and deliver a **10-minute presentation** online to the designated drop box including recording of self or voice over to each slide. 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.

Topic Options (choose one):

- Identify a current issue Indigenous people face due to gaps in the healthcare system and strategies to close these gaps.
- Identify a health inequity experienced by an Indigenous person, with at least three nursing recommendations to help reduce barriers and close the gap.
- Identify a topic related to one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action #18–24.
- Identify a topic related to culture and spirituality of Indigenous Peoples.

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 will 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 referenced and cited in proper APA format. All images utilized adhere to APA 7th edition citation requirements.

Creativity is encouraged! Some examples you may use are visuals, case examples, scenarios, or interactive elements.

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

Please note that most institutions 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.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a student at NWP, you have rights and responsibilities. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the information contained in this Course Outline and the PN student handbook and to clarify any areas of concern with the instructor. It is also your responsibility to be familiar with NWP policies. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the policies that might impact you while you are here:

[NWP Department of Practical Nurse & Health Care Aide: Practical Nurse Handbook](#)

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.



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 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 <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

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

AI Use Disclosure:

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are not encouraged for completing any assignments within this course, including weekly critical reflections. Students who choose to use AI tools **must** disclose and reference their use appropriately. AI tools may be used **only** for supportive purposes (e.g., checking grammar, APA formatting) if needed. AI tools **MUST NOT** be used for generating ideas, analysis, or original written content.

Students who use AI tools must include the following:

- An Appendix at the end of the assignment titled "AI Use Disclosure."
- Include the exact prompts entered into the AI tool.
- Include the full or summarized AI-generated responses used.
- Briefly explain how the tool was used (e.g., "used to check APA formatting").
- An in-text acknowledgment at the end of the assignment:
 - "[AI tool name] was used for [purpose]. All outputs were reviewed prior to assignment submission. Prompts and outputs are provided in the Appendix."
 - *For example:*



- OpenAI's ChatGPT 4o was used for APA formatting. All outputs were reviewed prior to assignment submission. Prompts and outputs are provided in the Appendix.

Failure to disclose AI use may be considered academic misconduct under Northwestern Polytechnic's Academic Integrity Policy.