English First Peoples 12 (Winter 2024)  
*Room 114*  
*Period 3, 12:35-2:05 pm (Wednesdays 12:05-1:20 pm)*Teacher: Miss Yvonne Yu  
Email: [yvonne.yu@pattisonhighschool.ca](mailto:yvonne.yu@pattisonhighschool.ca)  
  
**Course Description**English First Peoples 12 is a course that teaches the skills and fundamentals of English 12 using indigenous Canadian texts and sources. Students will explore different perspectives, forms, and genres of indigenous Canadian writing and understand the purposes and voices of various authors, writers, filmmakers, and poets. They will examine colonial and post-colonial issues that affected indigenous Canadians. They will also develop their writing skills in preparation for post-secondary English classes while expanding their ability to critically think, analyze, interpret, assess, and communicate about various topics and issues.

**Big Ideas** 

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| **The exploration of text and story deepens our understanding of diverse, complex ideas about identity, others, and the world.** | **Texts are socially, culturally, geographically, and historically constructed.** | **Language shapes ideas and influences others.** | **Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.** | **The examination of First Peoples cultures and lived experiences through text builds understanding of Canadians’ responsibilities in relation to Reconciliation.** |

**Unit Outline**

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| 1 | **Indigenous Films & Stereotypes** | Students will analyze film techniques as well as the role of storytelling in indigenous-made films through the film *Reel Injun*. They will have a better understanding of indigenous peoples, their values, beliefs, and perspectives. They will develop their ability to assess accuracy, reliability, contradictions, omissions, bias, and authenticity. |
| 2 | **Indigenous Novels, Residential Schools & Racism** | Students will explore the topic of residential schools and racism, and the resulting effects of generational and intergenerational trauma. They will understand indigenous novel writing through *Indian Horse,* which also has them examining different writing formats and perspectives. They will also be able to practise inferring. Finally, they will compare the novel and film version and use metacognitive strategies to understand the format best for their learning. There will also be a news article presentation in the middle of the unit to examine colonial and post-colonial issues and topics. |
| 3 | **Indigenous Poetry** | For the poetry unit, students will be reading poems and analyzing techniques, including rhetorical devices, that poets use to convey meaning. There will be a focus on analyzing the meaning as well as the role of poetic devices in conveying the poem’s meaning/theme. Students will individually or collaboratively create a poem with indigenous words, context, meaning, and messages. |
| 4 | **Land Use, Place, and Narratives** | Students will explore indigenous non-fiction stories and the importance of place in the indigenous community through a documentary *Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance*. They will continue to discern bias and reflect on their own understanding of issues and how they learn (metacognitive strategies). The course will end with a final exam. |

Allocation of marks:  
20% Learning journal  
10% Writing Response  
25% Essay (with self checklist & peer assessment)  
15% Presentation (with self & peer assessment)  
15% Quizzes  
15% Final exam  
  
**Classroom Expectations**:

* Bring paper or notebook, writing tools, and folder/binder
* Bring books/materials given by the teacher.
* Use laptops or tablets for writing (not phones)
* Do not use cellphones unless sharing or researching something
* Do not bring music players & earphones
* Do not speak other languages besides English unless explaining something
* Don’t do other things in class that distract from learning and engaging in the class topics
* Take washroom and water breaks only when necessary
* Complete your assignments on time and please speak to the teacher if you have trouble completing the work.

**Plagiarism & Cheating:**  
  
There is value in doing and learning from your own work. Please take the time to study and prepare, so you do not have to resort to plagiarism and cheating. Cheating will result in a mark of 0. Plagiarism will result in a re-write and an automatic deduction of 20% of the mark on the first offense. The next offense will result in a re-write and 50% deduction.