**Course Name**: GNDS 480/3.0: Special Topics
**Kinship and Indigenous Relations**

**Contact Hours**
Lectures: Wednesdays 8:30-11:30am  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:45 am to 1:00 pm  
Or by appointment

**Course Description**
In this course, students will be introduced to material related to kinship and Indigenous relations. Students will be guided through broad themes using a variety of media: peer-reviewed journal articles, blogs, motion pictures, video files, and audio files. We will discuss contradictions and incongruencies in an open, respectful, and thought-provoking manner.

Students must complete assigned readings before each class and submit three (3) written reflections over the course of the semester, the due dates of which can be found below. In addition, there is one in-class presentation, a write up of the presentation, and in-class writing assignments. The in-class writing assignments are at the beginning of each class, so completion of the assigned readings is compulsory.

**The course is designed in such a way that class attendance is extremely important.** If you miss a class, you must email me so we can discuss missed in-class assignments. It is your responsibility to also consult with fellow students about material covered.

Students may NOT post the course syllabus and/or course notes on any website.

**Course Objectives**
- To introduce perspectives of kinship and Indigenous relations  
- To explore how Indigenous Peoples describe kinship and relations  
- To develop an appreciation of a variety of Indigenous meanings of kinship and Indigenous relations  
- To understand how relationality aligns with Indigenous meanings of kinship  
- To engage with Indigenous scholars and in a kind, considerate, and appreciative manner

**Course Instructor**
Karen Lawford

**Required Course Materials**
No required book. All readings will be posted to ARES.

**Course Evaluation**
Participation – 20%  
3 Reading reflections (15% each) = 45%  
In-class presentation – 15%  
Write up of in-class presentation – 20%
**Topics in Course Outline**

Kinship and identity; kinship and wellness; Indigenous belonging; Two Spirit kinship; Indigenous ceremony and Indigenous kinship making; relational ethics; Indigenous kinship and relations with water; Indigenous kinship and relations with land; Indigenous kinship and culture camps; Roles of settlers and White settlers.