

University of Guelph
 College of Arts
 School of English and Theatre Studies
 Environmental and Indigenous Literatures and Law
 Winter 2019

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Synopsis:

This course will include a selection of Indigenous stories from Canada, the US, and Australia, focusing on earth based conceptions of law that question and expand Western legal traditions. We will consider how Indigenous law might be combined with the public trust doctrine and environmental law to protect the biosphere and slow down the effects of climate change. Storytelling includes both fiction and non-fiction, and draws from oral traditions and worldviews whose governing principle is a kind of constitutionalism based on relationships among all living beings and natural elements. Texts will deal with current crises such as global warming, mass migration of displaced people, ongoing colonial exploitation and neglect of racialized peoples, and destructive extraction of resources. We will also read works by writers of European heritage who draw inspiration from ancestral stories to create cautionary tales and stories of new/recuperated possibilities to heal humans' relations to the earth. These include the envisioning of shared space as commons instead of private property, leading to community formations that generate and thrive on mutualism.

Method of Evaluation:

Will depend on class size but will involve regular participation, seminar presentations, discussions, and close attention to developing writing skills.

Tentative Reading List

Atleo, E. Richard. *Principles of Tsawalk: An Indigenous Approach to Global Crisis*
 Bobis, Merlinda. *Locust Girl: A Love Song*
 Borrows, John (Kegeedonce). *Drawing out Law: A Spirit's Guide*
 Bowden, Charles. A selection of texts
 Haraway, Donna J. *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*
 King, Thomas. *The Back of the Turtle*
 Leduc, Timothy. B. *A Canadian Climate of Mind*
 Wright, Alexis. *Carpentaria*