# Econ 244: Economics of Indigenous Communities

**Fall 2025**

***We are privileged to be able to live and study on lands stewarded by the Anishinaabe, Wendat, and Haudenosaunee peoples for generations.***

**Welcome to Econ 244! See our class website @ onQ**

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*Dunning Hall 348*

**TUESDAYS** 2:30 Miller Hall Room 105

**FRIDAYS**  4:00 (See schedule below. Locations may change due to weather, cancellations etc.)

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| Date | Friday Activity | Meet where? |
| Sept 5 | Movie: Kapuskasing, Ontario | Ellis 321 |
| Sept 12 | Meeting with Elder Allen Doxtater | Queen’s Outdoor Gathering Space  (the Miigwam on the soccer field) |
| Sept 19 | Movie: Tyendinaga, Ontario | Ellis 321 |
| Sept 26 | Tour of St. Paul’s, Molly Brant Memorial, ruins of Fort Frontenac | St. Paul’s Anglican Church, 137 Queen Street |
| Oct 3 | Tour of Bellevue House | Bellevue House Historic Site, 35 Centre Street |
| Oct 10 | No event – Fall Break |  |
| Oct 17 | No event – Fall Break |  |
| Oct 24 | Movie: Elliott Lake, Ontario | Ellis Hall 321 |
| Oct 31 | No event – Hallowe’en |  |
| Nov 7 | Tour of Kingston Native Centre and Indigenous Language Nest | 218 Concession Street |
| Nov 14 | TBA | Ellis Hall 321 |
| Nov 21 | Lounge time – come chat with prof | TBA |
| Nov 28 | Lounge time – come chat with prof | TBA |

The Friday events above are optional unless you are choosing **Stream 1** (see “Assessments” below). If you are choosing **Stream 1**, then you must attend **three of the blue events** and all **three of the yellow events**. The Friday events will be graded on participation and a short follow-up reflection. Friday events are free of charge. If you miss a required event and ask for Academic Consideration, you can make it up by reporting on a new experience which the prof deems as being similar in scope. If you miss more than one of them, you will have to drop out of **Stream 1.**

**Assessments**

You have a choice of two streams

**Stream 1:** Midterm (25% each), Project (30%), Friday Special Events (45%).

The Friday special events program means three or more of the blue activities (above) and the three yellow activities (above).

Each Friday special event involves require showing up at the pre-arranged location, being engaged in the activity, and (for students enrolled in Stream 1) submitting a reflection which includes some follow-up research on what interested you. See the template under “Assignments” for details.

**Stream 2:** Midterm (25%), Project (30%), Final Exam (45%). Stream 2 students may still attend the Friday special events, but will not receive marks for doing so.

**For all students:** *Completion of midterm, project, and either the Friday Special Events program or Final Exam is mandatory in order to receive credit for the course.*

There is a grace period of 3 days for the project.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

1. Characterize the cultures and summarize the histories of the major Indigenous groups in Canada, identifying those aspects of culture and history which have relevance for production and trade today.

2. Describe necessary conditions for prosperity and economic growth, distinguishing between the responsibilities of government, markets, communities, and individuals.

3. Identify the economic incentives implicit in various governance, fiscal, ownership, and resource management arrangements.

4. Interpret economic growth or economic stagnation in particular situations.

5. Discuss culturally sensitive strategies for economic growth in Indigenous communities.

6. Articulate and communicate economic perspectives in extended written, oral or illustrative form.

**Textbook**

We will make use of *Economic Aspects of the Indigenous Experience in Canada*, 2nd edition. It is free to use, share, download, and print out and can be found here:

<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/indigenouseconomics244/>

**Approximate Course Outline:**

Indigenous Standards of Living before 1500

The Early Years of European Contact, Trade, and Settlement

Treaty-making and Expropriation

The Indian Act and the Status Indian

Land and Rights

The Twentieth Century, Modern Reserves, and Government Funding

Infrastructure on reserves

The Economics of Discrimination

Business and Finance on reserves

Indigenous ways of thinking about economics

**Approach**

The textbook is based on lecture notes written for this course. Students don’t enjoy having the textbook read to them, so I will not be repeating aloud everything I have written in the textbook. I will not be writing everything on the blackboard: all the core material is already in the textbook. Please keep up with the readings and you will get more out of the lectures.

**A note on recording the class**

Filming or audio recording the class is not permitted in such a way as might identify student speakers, because it may discourage conversation about sensitive topics.

**Grading Method - generally**

Numerical grades will be used for all assessments.

**Late penalty for project**

Late penalty is one half letter grade (e.g. B 🡪 B-) every two days. In lieu of academic consideration, there is a grace period of 3 days for each student.

**Disability Accommodations**

If you are a student with a disability and think you may need academic accommodation, you are strongly encouraged to contact the **Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS)** and register as early as possible.  For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the QSAS website at:  <http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/>

**Academic Integrity**

See our course website for more on Academic Integrity. As always, students are expected to do their own work unless working with a partner by permission.

*When writing assignments, cite all works consulted at the end of your paper. Use in-text citations when using material from sources other than the class textbook, and use quotation marks when quoting word-for-word from sources, including the class textbook. It’s best to avoid quoting others. If using quotations or data found in the textbook, cite the original source of the quotation or data.*