

LIBR 1595: Indigenous Knowledges and Libraries

Special Topics Course

Summer 2026 – online asynchronous

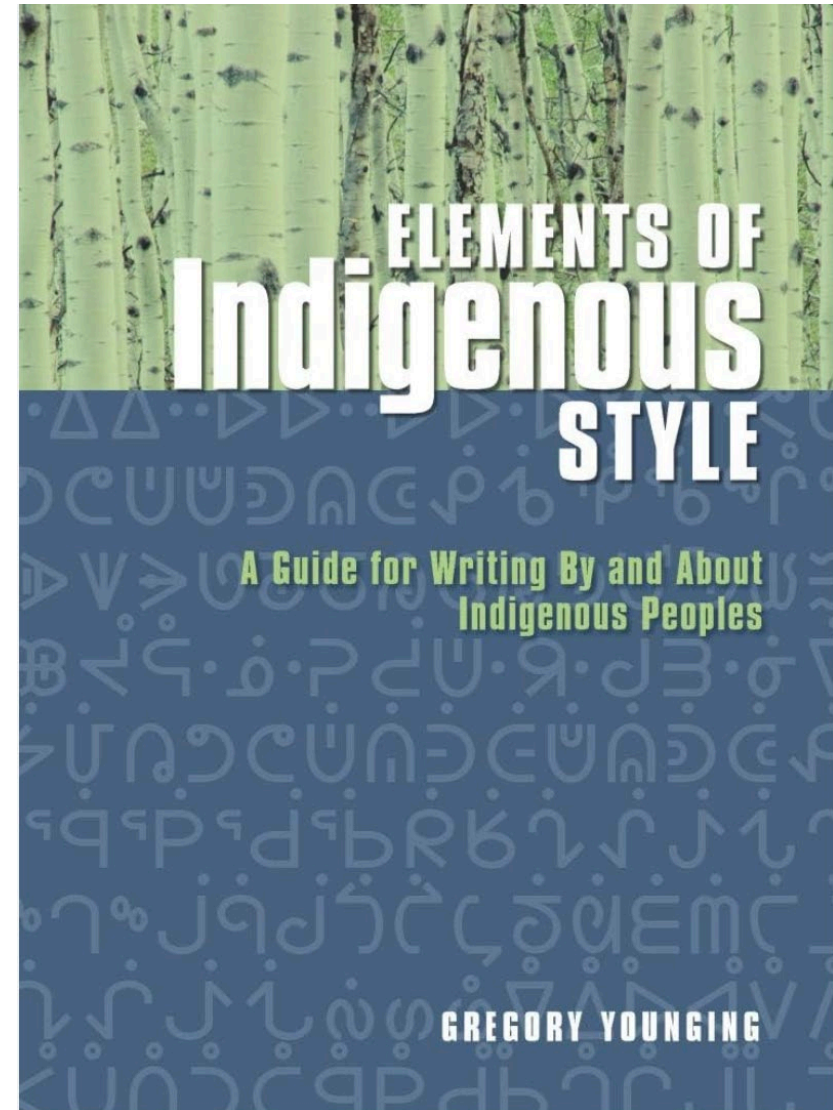
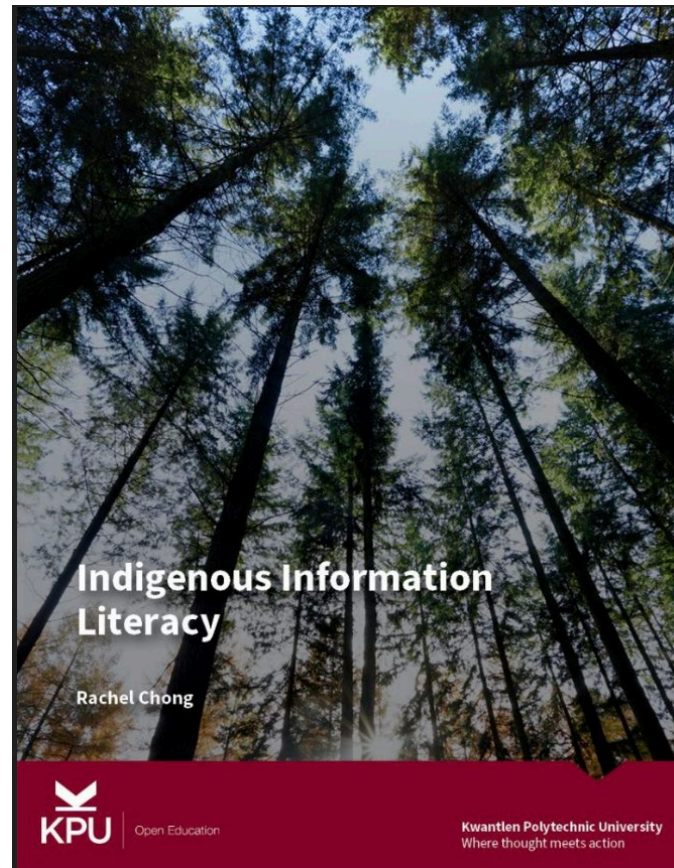
Optional Zoom sessions – no planned content but an opportunity to ask questions and talk about course materials informally

Co-taught: Ashley Edwards and Rachel Chong

The course is asynchronous, with the 13 weeks organized into knowledge bundles.

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Community Guidelines

- Listen actively
 - Respect others when they are talking.
 - Engage from a place of compassion, keeping an open heart.
- Be curious
 - Keep an open mind.
 - Ask clarifying questions to make sure we understand other points of view.
 - Move conversation forward as opposed to shutting it down.
 - Seek first to understand, then to be understood.
- Prepare to be “unsettled” and pushed out of our comfort zones.
 - Keep an open mind.
 - Recognize we come from diverse backgrounds and are at different points of our learning journey.
 - Expect and accept discomfort and joy as part of the learning process.
 - Value opportunities to be “unsettled” by ideas and thoughts.
- Practice respect
 - Share our experiences and opinions with “I” statements, avoid generalizing with “we” or “they” comments.
 - Do not generalize beyond yourself. Do not speak for others.
 - Respect people’s emotional space, opinions, and cultures.

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- The course starts with a knowledge bundle of information about Indigenous peoples in Canada and colonization to provide a foundation for the rest of the course.
- Each bundle will have assigned resources (readings, podcasts, videos) plus additional content in case someone wants to learn more about a particular topic.
- The course requires a lot of reflection, through journals and an experiential learning assignment.
- Practical assignments include a reference interview and a choice between designing a display or cataloguing using a Brian Deer Classification system.

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Learning Outcomes Students will be able to...

- Reflect on their own library practice, specifically in relation to Indigenous initiatives
- Articulate the importance of including Indigenous Knowledges in libraries
- Create book and resource reviews for use in collection development activities
- Apply critical Indigenous information literacy skills to create library displays featuring Indigenous authors or themes
- Apply critical Indigenous information literacy skills in responding to relevant reference questions
- Define Indigenous terminology and its political significance in Canada
- Articulate the importance of Indigenous voices in library collections
- Explain the impacts of colonization on Indigenous knowledge traditions

Questions?

