

**OSTS Lecture, Fall of 2024, 1st session
September 23rd - October 28th**

Course C *From the Heart: Indigenous Spirituality, Culture and Identity (Zoom Class)*

Lecturers Carole Brazeau, Professor Richard Budgell, Reverend Mary Fontaine and Dr. Reverend Teresa Burnett-Cole

Descriptor

Indigenous speakers from different communities in Canada will share their knowledge. They will speak about their work, their passions and their identity from their own lived experience and desire to make the world a better place. (36 words)

Outline

Week 1:

Carole Brazeau - "What do you believe is important to learn about Indigenous peoples' spirituality?"

Carole will talk about heeding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Calls to actions #58 to 61; Church Apologies and Reconciliation. In the first part of the session, Carole will offer a Power Point presentation regarding the TRC's calls to action, to be followed by a conversation.

The second hour will focus on Indigenous peoples' diverse spiritualities, worldviews and teachings from an Anishinabe ikwe (Algonquin woman's) perspective. Carole will share reflections of her own spiritual journey.

If time permits Carole will include a conversation on cultural appropriation versus cultural appreciation of Indigenous peoples' spiritualities.

Bio:

Born in Maniwaki, QC, Carole Brazeau is an Anishinabe (Algonquin) and a member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation. She has over 30 years of work-related experience within Indigenous peoples & non-governmental organizations in connection with various international, national, regional and community initiatives, programs, and training sessions. Carole currently works as the Advisor, Indigenous Curriculum and Pedagogy, at Concordia University's Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Week 2:

Richard Budgell - "I am not your Eskimo".

Richard will speak about his experience as an Inuk from Labrador and his journey to finding his spiritual home within the Jewish faith. Richard will challenge our thinking on how we view **Inuit** and will use different perspectives to focus our own thinking and knowledge of Indigeneity.

Bio:

Richard is a Labrador Inuk and lectures, writes and does research on Inuit health. In 2022 he began teaching a graduate course on Inuit health which he developed and is the first of its kind in a Canadian university. Prior to that he was a federal government public servant in First Nations and Inuit health, and other Indigenous fields, for more than thirty years. He was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 for exemplary public service in his role in the creation of the Aboriginal Head Start program, an early childhood development program for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and families. He has a Master of Arts degree in Canadian Studies (Aboriginal concentration) from Carleton University.

Week 3:

Reverend Mary Fontaine - "Healing, Peace-building and the Role of Hummingbird Ministry in Vancouver".

Hummingbird Ministries is a healing and peace-building ministry between Indigenous people and the Church and Canadians. According to Mary, the early missionaries did not listen to where and how the Holy Spirit was already present in their cultures and spiritualities, so it's now time to listen. She will share how the ministry came about through the Native name she was given and the legend of the Hummingbird and the Crane. She will talk about the approach of the ministries, through the Circle and the performing arts, music, dancing, drama, film, and other forms of storytelling.

Bio:

Rev. Mary Fontaine is Nehiyaw (Cree) from Mistawasis Nehiywak, Saskatchewan, and is the first Indigenous person to be elected as the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. She is the founding Director of Hummingbird Ministries, an Indigenous-led healing and reconciliation ministry. Through healing circles and the performing arts, Hummingbird educates the public and raises the profile of Indigenous people, especially Indigenous children. Mary has a B.A. in Native Studies from the University of Alberta and a M.Div. from the Vancouver School of Theology.

Week 4

Reverend Dr. Tereasa Burnett-Cole **“Saving Christianity from the Cowboys: Indigenous Spiritualities”**

This session will explore the resurgence in spiritual practices among Indigenous communities. In the first Canadian Census of the twentieth century almost 100% of Indigenous people were identified as Christian. That landscape has changed significantly in the wake of the residential school debacle. Based on her doctoral work, Teresa will share some of her learnings about Indigenous theologies and perspectives. Where does hope lie for Indigenous Christians and Ceremonial Indigenous people?

Bio:

The Reverend Doctor Teresa Burnett-Cole is the Coordinating-Minister at Glebe-St. James United Church in Ottawa. She began her theological studies as a Roman Catholic before she joined the United Church of Canada. Teresa is of Mohawk and Irish/Scottish heritage. She currently serves on the National Indigenous Council and the General Council Executive of The United Church of Canada. Her area of expertise is liturgy with a particular focus on Indigenous Christian worship.

Week 5: Dr. Reverend Teresa Burnett-Cole - A summary with all speakers