

**SOCI 2804: COLONIALISM,  
DEVELOPMENT AND THE E-  
COMMUNITY  
(ONLINE COURSE)**

Instructor: Dr. Rob McMahon, Postdoctoral Fellow  
First Nations Innovation Project, UNB Sociology

# SOCI 2804: Underlying Framework

- Connected to two ongoing research projects:
  - ▣ First Nations Innovation (<http://fn-innovation-pn.com>)
  - ▣ First Mile (<http://firstmile.ca>)
- Features materials and guest speakers who are actively involved in these projects
- Inviting students both at UNB & in remote/rural communities
- Course as a means to engage students in research projects
- Projects benefit from knowledge & skills held by students
- Course materials draw from work produced by members of indigenous communities, as well as critical scholars of technology development

# SOCI 2804: Focus

- Colonialism, the growth of digital networks and applications, and community development
- Focus on agency – problems like ‘digital divides’ reframed as opportunities as well as challenges
- Critical focus – historic & ongoing social relations of inequality constrain the efforts of communities
- How do creative actors undertake community development projects through struggle, negotiation, compromise & appropriation?

# SOCI 2804: Overview

- Module 1: The context of settler colonialism in Canada
  - ▣ How people are negotiating the colonial relationship
  - ▣ Residential schools & the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
  - ▣ Indigenous media development
- Module 2: Broadband development in Canada and globally
  - ▣ Issues, institutions & actors in the 'network society'
  - ▣ Community-driven technology development projects
- Module 3: Towards an 'e-Community' Strategy
  - ▣ Toolkit for community-based research
  - ▣ Opportunities & challenges involved in e-Community projects
  - ▣ Infrastructure, operations & management, policy, applications

# SOCI 2804: Class Structure & Assignments

- Course readings, digital media
- Weekly lectures from course instructor & guests
- Weekly assignments engage with theoretical & empirical issues covered in the course
- Choice of projects: research papers; e-Community plans; narrative blog posts & digital media
- Students provided opportunities to publish their work on First Mile website

# SOCI 2804: Where do I sign up!?!?

- Online course (Desire2Learn + Elluminate)
- Tues. and Thurs. from 9 Jan. – 8 April
  - ▣ 1:30pm – 2:50pm (Atlantic time)
- Computer with speakers, microphone (or webcam) & Internet connection
- Grad students can audit, with permission from their supervisor and course instructor

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