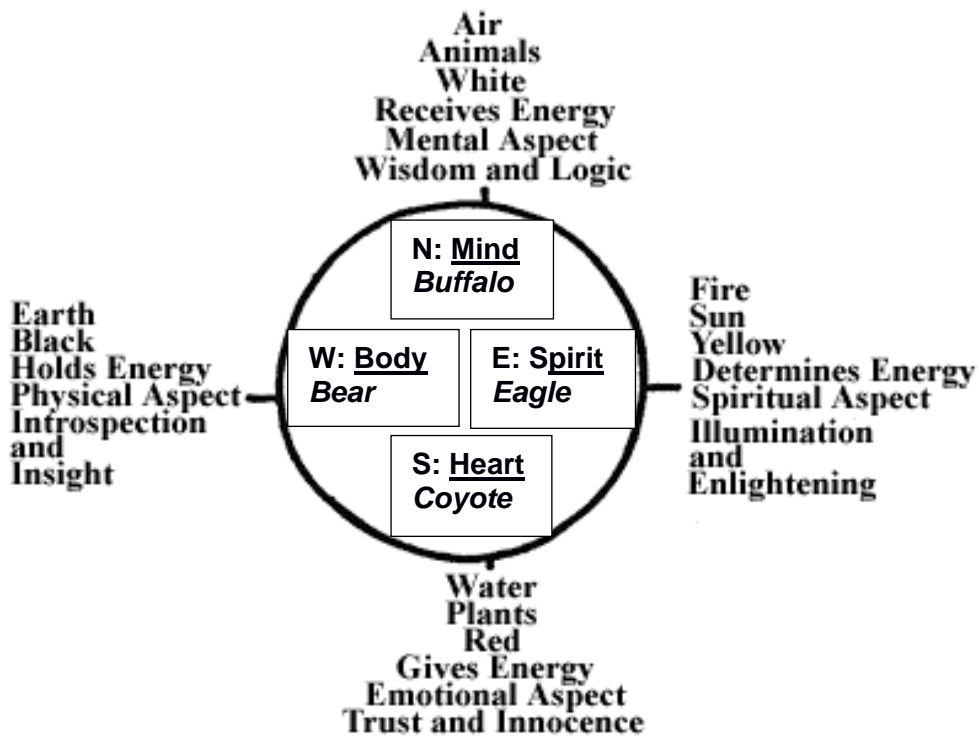


## Bio 105 Marine Biology “Medicine Wheel” Seminar: *Marine Issues*

This assignment requires a 10-15 minute oral presentation by groups of 4 students in circle format, followed by a 5 minute question and answer period. The topic is your choice of a current issue concerning a marine species or group of organisms. The notion is to study and empathize with a marine organism and its challenges of survival or well-being, using aspects of an aboriginal, more holistic approach, in accordance with Camosun College’s goal of integrating indigenous content across the curriculum. This is an opportunity to gather and present information on the causes and potential solutions regarding a particular problem facing a marine organism that you care about, by integrating science and personal involvement.

Topics may include environmental or ethical issues, for example: endangerment of a species through habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, or over-exploitation, welfare concerns regarding marine animals killed for human consumption, marine animals in captivity, issues regarding poaching, trade in species (parts), fishing methods and regulations, or the effect of an introduced species on a Native species, etc. There is a wide range of possible topics, but the basic premise is a bio-centric approach, i.e. deconstructing the issue from the point of view of the species in question, and focusing on the organisms’ best interest. Please check with your instructor if your topic choice and angle fits the scope of this assignment before you proceed with your research (see course outline for deadlines).

Format and content of this presentation is supposed to be holistic in nature and is loosely based on the concept of a generalized First Nations medicine wheel:



In your presentation, you are therefore expected to present not only the physical and mental aspects of the issue (see West and North), but also the emotional and value-based/spiritual aspects (see South and East) to the same extent.

Please present your talk in the following sequence: Briefly introduce yourself and your topic, and then address the 4 basic aspects of your chosen issue by going around the medicine wheel. Depending on species and issue, some or all of the following guidelines may apply.

1. W: “Physical”Aspect: Issue Definition

Introduce your chosen species, including a *brief* background on its biology and ecology as it pertains to the issue. Define and explain the concrete problem facing this species or group of species, keeping in mind that this may be the first time your audience has heard about this issue. Condense your background research into a precise yet concise, readily comprehensible summary. If relevant, mention other species affected by the issue.

2. S: “Emotional”Aspect: Personal Engagement

Why do you care about this species, this particular issue? What is the story behind your choice? What emotions does this issue evoke, e.g. compassion, frustration, urge to take action etc.? Do co-presenters have similar or different sentiments regarding the chosen species or issue? Do you know which position on this issue is representative of the population at large?

3. E: “Spiritual”Aspect: Value-based Solutions

What do you perceive to be the root of the problem? How did the status quo come to be? What ethical principles or choices may have led to this issue, e.g. greed, carelessness, anthropocentrism etc.? Are there underlying societal values or belief systems that may have to be re-evaluated or changed in your opinion to allow for support for any type of practical solution? What other societies/cultures/value systems can we learn from in this regard, incl. Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Wisdom (TEKW)? You could discuss some of the values and attitudes you would like to foster.

4. N: “Mental”Aspect: Practical Solutions

What should be done, in your opinion, to fix or ameliorate the problem facing your chosen species? What can different levels of society contribute to the solution, e.g. government, NGO’s, industry, academia, organized religion etc. and what actions can you and your class mates take to support your solutions? Give specific examples. You may cite published solutions that you support, or think outside the box to come up with your own answers to the problem.

A different path around the medicine wheel may be more suitable to your presentation – please discuss the best sequence or integration of aspects with the instructor. Conclude your talk with a short statement referring to future hopes or plans and thank your audience. (Note: “that’s all we got” or “I guess that’s it…” is *not* a good concluding statement!)

You need to know the material well enough to speak freely as well as answer questions for approx. 5 minutes following your talk (*know more than you present!*). The presentation itself will take place in circle format around a replica of a medicine wheel, i.e. the presenters are seated along with the audience in a circle. If necessary, a room other than the lab will be booked for this purpose. Therefore, you will not have to stand in front of the class, and **you are not required to prepare overheads or power-points – this really is an oral presentation**, and it is meant to provide a different presentation and learning experience, more along the lines of sharing around a campfire. This means that your speech should be as free from references to written notes as possible.

You are also required to bring a visual aid to be passed around, e.g. a good quality picture or replica or otherwise relevant object (1 minimum and 3 maximum visual aids per presentation). Aids should be user-friendly and add to your talk but not distract from it; written materials are usually not suitable. Please also have a list of references handy, in case you may be asked about the sources of presented information. Although not a requirement, you are free to integrate original elements of the visual, musical, healing or performing arts as well as aspects of your cultural or spiritual practices that you are able to share.

It is important to practice the talk several times beforehand, in order to feel comfortable speaking freely, to allow for smooth transitions, and to keep within the time limit of 10-15 minutes in fairness to all other students in the same lab period. However, in alignment with common indigenous practice, speakers will be allowed – within reason – to complete their presentation regardless of time.

As a member of the audience, you are expected to be respectful to the speaker by following the talk with focus and an open mind, so you may be able to contribute a question at the end of the talk. While a class mate is presenting, it is unacceptable to review your own notes, carry on a conversation or leave the circle early. Being a disrespectful listener may affect your overall mark for this project.

**Evaluation of Oral Presentation:**

CRITERIA	SCORE (0-10)
1. <u>Content</u> : biocentric, not anthropocentric perspective maintained; all 4 sub-topics addressed adequately and with appropriate details in each category; evidence of broad background research and in-depth contemplation of the issue	
a. Physical	
b. Emotional	
c. Spiritual	
d. Mental	
2. <u>Outreach</u> : the issue and potential solutions were presented convincingly, with respect, empathy and engagement; the audience felt compelled to listen and learn	
3. <u>Delivery</u> : free speech*, good projection, clear pronunciation, appropriate opening and closing statements, smooth transitions between sub-topics; talk flowed well	
4. <u>Visual Aid(s)</u> : well-chosen and informative, attention to ease of viewing and handling, no distracting details such as extensive writing; well-integrated into talk	
5. <u>Timing</u> : time used efficiently and evenly; no unnecessary pauses or “fillers;” time limit observed (10 -15 minutes) - minus 3 marks for each minute over or under	
6. <u>Questions</u> : questions from the audience were answered knowledgably and honestly, showing involvement with the subject beyond information given in talk	
7. <u>Audience</u> : As audience members, presenters were part of circle, respectful, paid full attention to presenters, and – optionally - asked valid questions	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	...../100

*\* reading the entire “talk” from a prepared script will result in a 50% overall mark reduction*