

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPHY 351 – Geographies of Indigenous and Settler Relations



Course Instructor	Dr. Julia Christensen	Email: julia.christensen@queensu.ca
Office	Mackintosh-Corry Hall D319	
Contact Time	Two 1.5 hour sessions per week/combined lectures and active learning	
Format	In-class lectures and discussions, weekly portfolio reflections, book and film review, and independent research and writing.	
Class Assessment	Meaningful participation and collaborative engagement (20%) Portfolio reflections (25%) Book and film review assignment (25%) Final assignment/independent research project (30%)	

COURSE OVERVIEW

In this course we will learn about settler colonialism and Indigenous Peoples in the context of Turtle Island/Canada. This course reconsiders settler histories and contemporary narratives of the Canadian state by engaging Indigenous scholarship and emphasizing critical engagement with Indigenous perspectives on Indigenous-settler relations. We also take a critical look at how the dispossession and displacement of Indigenous lands, families, children and ultimately homes have been key focal points in the expansion and entrenchment of the settler colonial state in Canada. In turn, these sites are being contested and engaged in resistance by Indigenous peoples and Nations vis-à-vis Indigenous resurgence, land claims and self-government. This course also examines the historical and contemporary roles of Geography as a discipline in framing Indigenous-settler relations in Canada. In completing the course, students will gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for the complexity and diversity of Indigenous peoples, the complexity of settler-Indigenous relations, as well as develop skills to incorporate this critical thinking into their research, perspectives, and arguments.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Enhanced knowledge and understanding of Settler-Indigenous relations
 In-depth understanding of settler colonialism (past and present)
 Understanding of diverse Indigenous perspectives on relationships with settlers and the settler state
 Understanding Indigenous ways of knowing/epistemologies
 Enriched critical thinking abilities
 Improved written and oral communication

COURSE TOPICS

Topics include but are not limited to: Indigenous lands and epistemologies; Indigenous conceptualizations of health, home, community and wellbeing; Indigenous resurgence and Land Back; Indigenous contributions to the study of Geography in Turtle Island/Canada; settler colonialism and the social welfare state; the Indian Act; the Indian Residential School Policy; the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; treaties and modern land claims.

COURSE READINGS

Course materials emphasize Indigenous scholarship and other knowledge contributions, and include of a mix of academic and creative texts as well as audio/visual materials. Readings will include key works in critical Indigenous geographies as well as Indigenous literature and film.