

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPHY 402: Honours Seminar in Human Geography II: Decolonizing and Indigenizing Human Geography:

De-Centering Settler Colonial Thought Within the Discipline



Contact Time	Twice a week for 1.5 hours lecture
Format	Seminar
Class Assessment	40% Attendance and Meaningful Participation 5% Meaning Making/Essay Assignment Proposal Due: Jan 18, 2024, at 11:59pm 15% Storytelling Assignment Due: Feb 22, 2024, at 11:59pm 40% Meaning Making/Essay Assignment Due: April 5, 2024, at 11:59pm

COURSE OVERVIEW: The idea that settler colonialism is solely an historical problem is inaccurate; colonial tropes continue to guide and structure every system in Turtle Island/Canada, including education. Although we will briefly disseminate the history of settler colonialism in Turtle Island/Canada, the course is designed to a) demonstrate that cognitive imperialism is alive and well in the discipline of geography and b) unpack the methods, thought processes, and practices required to decolonize and indigenize the discipline of geography in the context of Turtle Island/Canada. This effort requires more than making land acknowledgements and adding a few Indigenous references to the reading list; the structure of coursework, syllabi, assignments, etc. must be examined and reorganized. We must decolonize and Indigenize in these ways while respecting and valuing Indigenous perspectives without appropriating them. This class will decenter settler colonialism by prioritizing Indigenous epistemologies, methods, and scholarship. Discussions will be relational and reciprocal with respect for Indigenous cosmologies, beliefs, and practices. We will employ Indigenous learning methodology (for example, talking circles, inviting Indigenous community members/elders to actively share their knowledge, land learning, and storytelling) and there will be options to move away from the written word in all assignments. Please come to class prepared to *unlearn* settler tropes as you decolonize your mind and enable Indigenized scholarship.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Applied understanding of cognitive imperialism and the 'presentness' of settler colonialism within the discipline of human geography in the context of Turtle Island/Canada.
2. Proven knowledge of, and respect for, Indigenous epistemologies and ways of knowing.
3. Demonstrated understanding of, and ability to apply, decolonizing and Indigenizing concepts within geographic academia.

COURSE TOPICS: settler colonialism, cognitive imperialism, settler identities, Indigenous identities, decolonization, Indigenization, recognition politics, listening to Indigenous voices, land as pedagogy, Indigenous language learning, cultural resurgence and revitalization, decolonizing the academic mind, decolonizing and indigenizing academic processes in human geography, decolonizing and Indigenizing geographical research

COURSE READINGS: This course will have extensive reading that **must** be completed before class to enable informed discussions learning and debates. Below please find a selection of readings that *may* be included in the reading list for this course (not an exhaustive list):

- Barker, Adam J, and Jenny Pickerill. 2019. "Doings with the land and sea: Decolonising geographies, Indigeneity, and enacting place-agency."
- Battiste, Marie. 2017. "*Decolonizing education: Nourishing the learning spirit.*"
- Daigle, Michelle. 2019. "The spectacle of reconciliation: On (the) unsettling responsibilities to Indigenous peoples in the academy."
- De Leeuw, Sarah, and Sarah Hunt. 2018. "Unsettling decolonizing geographies." *Geography Compass* 12 (7): e12376.
- Neeganagwedgin, Erica. 2013. "Ancestral knowledges, spirituality and indigenous narratives as self-determination."
- Simpson, Audra. 2014. *Mohawk Interruptus*.
- . 2016. "Whither settler colonialism?"
- Simpson, Leanne Betasamosake. 2011. *Dancing on our turtle's back: Stories of Nishnaabeg re-creation, resurgence and a new emergence.*
- Pete, Shauneen. 2016. "100 Ways: Indigening and Decolonizing Academic Programs."
- Tuck, Eve, and K Wayne Yang. 2012. "Decolonization is not a metaphor."
- Wildcat, Daniel R. 2005. "Indigenizing the future: Why we must think spatially in the twenty-first century."