

# ANTH 391 A02

## CANADIAN VISUAL CULTURE

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*INSTRUCTOR:* Dr. Jennifer Claire Robinson

### Course Description and Objectives

What exactly does it mean to be Canadian? What constitutes a sense of “Canadian-ness” or the culture of “Canadiana”? How have representations of Canada been created and circulated nationally and internationally? And, what does it mean for certain communities living within Canada to define their culture and citizenship *against* the idea of being Canadian? This course explores these questions by tracing the development of Canada through the production and circulation of material and visual culture. This course highlights how things such as photographs, monuments, museums, exhibitions, architecture, artworks, music, radio, and film have all contributed to how Canada as an idea, a place, and a nation has been created. Starting with the period just after Confederation, this course moves historically and thematically through representations of Canada that have developed as a result of: colonial expansion and settlement; the vast landscape and national parks; the two World Wars; labour strikes and migration movements; the growth of Canadian visual arts, museums and galleries; the National Film Board and Canadian Broadcast Company; monuments, sports, and celebrations; and the development of human rights and social justice movements. Through these themes, this course aims to interrogate the concepts of Canadian nationhood, identity, and collective memory.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Critical understandings of the history of human rights and social movements in Canada.
- Basic skills in relation to Canadian studies applied in cultural studies, history, visual arts, archives and museum studies, visual culture studies, and anthropology.
- Examine film, video, music, photography, exhibitions, advertising etc. as technologies that both enable cultural representations and reflect the cultural and historical contexts of their production.
- Practical skills development in presentation and discussion tools as well as research and writing skills.
- Be familiar with creative, visual and sensory anthropological research methods through course project development