

# ANTH 391

## CANADIAN VISUAL CULTURE

---

*INSTRUCTOR:* Dr. Jennifer Claire Robinson

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course investigates the history of Canada through the production and circulation of visual and material culture. 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. Beginning with the period just after Confederation this course moves historically and thematically through representations of Canada from: colonial expansion and settlement; the vast landscape and national parks; labour strikes and migration movements; the two World Wars; the growth of visual arts, museums and galleries; language struggles; 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 interrogates the concepts of Canadian nationhood, identity, and collective memory. Given the territories now known as Canada include Indigenous peoples, descendants of settlers, and new immigrant communities, what exactly does it mean to be Canadian? What constitutes a sense of “Canadian-ness” or the culture of “Canadiana”? How has the image of Canada been created and distributed both nationally and internationally? And finally, what does it mean for certain communities living within Canada to define their culture and citizenship *against* the concept of being Canadian? These are some of the questions this course explores.

### **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