



University
of Victoria

POLI 424/524 Politics of Colonialism (Seminar)

Instructor Spring 2023: Dr. Rita Dhamoon

Course delivery: In the Spring 2023 term, POLI 424 will be delivered online using a synchronous format.

Course description:

The term 'colonialism' is important in defining the specific form of exploitation that developed with the expansion of Europe over the last 400 years. Our goal in this course is to consider two central questions: *1. What precisely are the problematics of colonialism that need to be addressed?* *2. How do we change colonial relations?* Because critical inquiries into colonialism are highly varied in their responses to these questions, we will attune our attention to the contemporary colonial context of 'North America'. In asking these two questions, we can garner an orientation, a sensibility, perhaps even the directions of *how* to transform politically colonial and colonizing formations of difference.

Prerequisite: None

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Understand some recent debates on the problematics of contemporary colonialism in 'North America'.
- Link various strategies of political change to trajectories of colonialism that impact Indigenous peoples, Black people, other nonwhite subjects of colonialism, and dominant groups differently and differentially.
- Connect key concepts to theoretical ideas and political events.
- Gain knowledge of some of the key thinkers in the field of colonial studies

Topics may include:

(Post)colonial theory
Decolonialization
Transforming colonial formations
Settler colonialism

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.