



University
of Victoria

POLI 463/533 Violence to Indigenous Lands and Bodies (Seminar)

Instructor Spring 2024: Dr. Kelly Aguirre

Course delivery: This course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Prerequisites: None.

Course description:

Indigenous lands and bodies have been constructed as terra nullius, wastelands and criminal spaces, enabling the US and Canada to avert attention from their own illegality. The imposition of colonial law, facilitated by casting Indigenous peoples as savage and in need of civilization and constructing Indigenous lands as lawless spaces absent legal order, have made it possible for the United States and Canada to reduce Indigenous political authority and dispossess Indigenous nations of their lands. Settler colonial logics operate to keep state sovereignty discursively intact while implementing and mobilizing settler sovereignty in ways that play out on Indigenous bodies and lands. This course is discussion based. You are expected and required to come to class prepared to discuss the readings with a critical lens. This class covers a range of political and legal issues.

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Examine Indigenous relationships to their territories.
- Explore Indigenous assertions of sovereignty and resistance to the state
- Understand settler colonialism and its enduring impacts including gender violence and policy responses
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion

Topics may include:

Economies of violence
Colonial space, elimination and containment
Heteropatriarchy
Discourses of reconciliation and healing

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