

# SOCI 103 <sup>1</sup>

## Settler Colonialism and Canadian Society

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Instructor: Seb Bonet; [sbonet@uvic.ca](mailto:sbonet@uvic.ca) (do reach out if you have questions!)



Photo Credit: Amber Bracken

### Course Description:

Canada's Primer Minister sports a Haida tattoo but buys a pipeline whose expansion is deeply opposed by Indigenous people. British Columbia calls for the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People but Indigenous matriarchs continue to be forcibly removed from their own territories. Indigenous land defenders declare reconciliation to be dead, and yet the word continues to fall from the lips of politicians.

In this course, we will critically examine these contradictions through the sociological lens of settler colonialism. Together, we will explore the historical development of Canada as a settler colonial state,

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<sup>1</sup> This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.

and discuss how settler colonialism continues to structure Canada's political, economic, legal and social institutions. At the same time, we will emphasize the Indigenous values, practices, traditions, and modes of governance, kinship and nationhood that continue to exist in contention with settler Canada. Finally, we will ask what it would mean to decolonize. In other words, if the horizon of peaceful coexistence so often invoked through Indigenous treaties were to be materialized, what sorts of transformations might that demand of the country we know as Canada?

### **Course Outcomes/Objectives:**

This course seeks to understand settler colonialism and Indigenous resurgence within the framework of empire – as a system of interlocking oppressions through which global rule is reproduced. In particular, drawing on sociological theory, we will seek to make sense of how capital, the state, patriarchy and more organize, and are organized by, settler colonialism. Students will come away from this course understanding the basic history of the colonial process, and the core logics of colonialism at the systemic and intimate scale.

At the same time, as land acknowledgments point to, Indigenous orders persist inspite of and in opposition to colonialism. Students will engage with Indigenous theorizations of how the relationships through which Indigenous cosmologies are lived out, as well as, the political visions that imagine how those cosmologies may once again flourish.

Making sense of the above entails the distribution of varying roles and responsibilities according to our social location. This course will also aim to grapple with the settler subjectivities that colonialism produces, as well as the decolonial ones on offer through Indigenous resurgence.

### **Course Delivery:**

This course will be delivered online, with a live zoom session on Wednesdays from 6-8.20PM, supplemented with other learning activities delivered asynchronously.

### **Course Pre-requisites/Recommendations:**

Recommended prior to SOCI 235, SOCI 384, SOCI 436.

### **Topics Will Include:**

Settler colonialism, land dispossession, resource extraction and primitive accumulation, gendered politics of colonization, treaties, aboriginal rights, UNDRIP, displacement, forced migration, residential schools, racism and racialization, intersectionality, policing and political violence, political ecology, globalization, contestation, Indigenous resurgence and decolonization.

### **Required Resources May Include:**

Assigned course readings will be available through Brightspace.