

SOCI103 - Settler Colonialism and Canadian Society

July 5-August 20, 2021

Instructors: Keith Cherry, Rebecca Nelems & Pablo Ouziel

How many times have you turned on the tv or social media to see Canadian police confronting an Indigenous-led blockade, encampment, or rally? Have you ever wondered why conflict with Indigenous peoples is such an enduring feature of Canadian society?

In this course, we will critically examine Canadian society through the sociological lens of settler colonialism. Together, we will explore the historical development of Canada as a colonial settler state, and discuss how settler colonialism continues to structure Canada's political, economic, legal and social institutions.

Drawing on sociological theory, we will examine how the structures of colonialism distribute resources, power and authority unevenly across Canadian society, reflecting on how colonialism shapes one's experiences of Canada, of the world and our everyday lives.

We will also reflect on how Canadians, both Indigenous and Settler, have exerted their own agency to disrupt, challenge and transform Canada's colonial structures, and how these efforts continue today. We will share examples of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples who are working to enact a different vision of Canada, and explore political and sociological frameworks for mapping the exercise of citizen agency moving forward.

Topics will include: settler colonialism, land dispossession, staple/resource economy, gendered politics of colonization, historic and modern treaties, aboriginal rights, UNDRIP, population movement, immigration, residential schools, racism and racialization, intersectionality, policing and political violence, political ecology, globalization, contestation and Indigenous resurgence.

This course will include two synchronous, interactive online sessions (M 12.30 – 2.20pm; R 12.30 – 1.20pm) and asynchronous engagement online will be expected each week by Wednesday. Synchronous classes will entail small group discussions, interactive activities and possibly guest lectures.