



The University of Western Ontario
Sociology 2190G
Title: Decolonizing Canada
Lecture (via Zoom): Mondays @ 10:30-12:30

Instructor: Janice Forsyth
Office Hours (via Zoom): By appointment.
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Course Description:

What does “decolonization” mean? What factors led to its emergence? What are the theoretical and practical challenges concerning its implementation? Working primarily from Indigenous perspectives, this survey course will introduce students to the dominant themes and debates guiding the current movement to “decolonize” Canada.

This lecture-based course will emphasise theoretical and conceptual issues related to the thinking and practice of trying ‘decolonize’ the various institutions (e.g., education, law, sport, etc.) that sustain the nation-state. A variety of teaching methods will be used to engage students in this online learning process, including lectures, virtual discussions, breakout chats, documentary and film, podcasts, media analysis, guest lectures, etc.

* Please note that for the 2020-2021 academic year, this course be taught virtually. This means there will be no in-person classes on campus. Students are encouraged to attend the class during the regularly scheduled time each week via Zoom as there will be important discussions taking place during class; however lectures will be recorded and posted to the course OWL website soon after the scheduled class finishes. Students who miss a class accept full responsibility for working independently to prepare for the following week. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure they have the technology and bandwidth to successfully complete the course.

Pre-requisite(s): None.

Anti-requisite(s): None.

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Define what “decolonization” means (and doesn’t mean), as well as related terms.
- Explain how decolonization emerged as an important practical and theoretical orientation.
- Identify and describe how decolonization is being implemented in various Canadian contexts.
- Analyze the strengths and weakness of decolonization as theory and practice.

Required Text:

- None. All assigned readings will be available online and through Western Libraries.

Methods of Evaluation:

1	3 Multiple Choice Tests (via OWL)	TBD in Sept / Oct / Nov	30% (3 x 10% each)
2	Critical Reflection Paper	TBD in October	35%
3	Analytical Paper	TBD in December	35%

Course Schedule and Readings (TBD):

What do we mean when we say we are going to “decolonize” something? The first three weeks will focus on how leading scholars in the field define decolonization. We will compare and contrast those definitions to arrive at a shared understanding of what we think they mean (and don’t mean). We will also spend some time exploring related terms, e.g. Indigenization, so that we understand how they are similar and different. Definitional clarity is therefore essential for delving deeper into decolonization theory and practice.

WK1			
WK2			
WK3			

Where does the term “decolonization” come from? Why is it so prevalent today? The next three classes will focus on the emergence of decolonization as a theory and a practice, focusing on the Canadian context. This will help us better understand decolonization as a critical movement in contemporary Canadian society and enable us to make more informed contributions to it through research and in our daily lives.

WK4			
WK5			
WK6			

For the next three weeks we will narrow in on decolonization activities in specific Canadian contexts. The point is not to memorize what is going in each area, but to hone your analytical skills so that you are more able to see and understand what decolonization looks like (and doesn’t look like) in various societal institutions, such as sport, education, and the law. Our earlier work on defining what decolonization means will be instrumental at this point.

WK7			
WK8			
WK9			

In the final three weeks, we will reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of decolonization as theory and practice. In the end, this training will provide you with a stronger foundation for understanding how decolonization is being deployed within our borders and what challenges advocates face.

WK10			
WK11			
WK12			

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines

All 3 multiple choice tests will be run through OWL with a 24-window to respond. Once the test is in progress, students must complete all the answers at that time, since they cannot 'save' and return to the test later.

All written assignments are to be submitted electronically to the instructor and are due at the start of class on the assigned date. A 5% deduction per day will apply to late papers, including papers submitted after class has started. Please see the Instructor in advance of the due date, if an extension is required. Further information on "Missed Work" is below.

Assignment objectives and rubrics will be posted on OWL, as well as discussed in class via Zoom. Should you have a concern regarding the grade you received for an assignment, you **must wait 24 hours** from the receipt of the grade (on OWL) to contact the instructor. In doing so, please make an appointment and prepare in writing, with evidence, why you feel your grade is inappropriate. Please be aware that in requesting a grade reassessment, your grade could go up/down/or stay the same. Note that calculations errors (which do occur!) should be brought to my attention immediately.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence (SRA) form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will not be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course. In other words the SRAs do not apply to the Critical Reflection Paper and the Analytical Paper in this course.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 SRAs, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/Self_Reported_Absence.html

A Note on Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Accessibility Options

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options on how to obtain help.