

Course Description Form

Course number and section: English 385 / Cultural Studies 351 - 001

Course Topic: Settler Studies, Literature, and Culture

Credits: 3

Term: 1

Instructor: Dr. Allison Hargreaves

Course Description (aim for no more than 80 – 100 words for your course description):

Joyce Green (English, Ktunaxa, Cree-Scots Métis) defines settler colonialism as “the dominant myths and political, social and economic practices that dignify, deny or perpetuate...the enforced appropriation of Aboriginal nations’ land and resources.” Notably, Green’s definition highlights the centrality of myth and story in perpetuating material forms of dispossession. This course explores the concept, structure, and practice of settler colonialism, and the role of representation in maintaining, resisting, or transforming settler colonial relations of power in the place we know as Canada. Together, we will explore a variety of cultural texts by differently positioned non-Indigenous and settler writers whose work can help us to re-story dominant myths and reimagine our social relations. In addition to these creative works (tentatively listed below), we will be reading essays and other forms of critical engagement by Indigenous writers like Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Glen Coulthard, Vanessa Watts, Audra Simpson, and Eve Tuck.

Tentative Reading List:

A Geography of Blood (history and memoir by Candace Savage)

Rehearsals for Living (collaborative non-fiction by Robyn Maynard and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson)

Every Hidden Thing (novel for young adults by Kenneth Oppel)

From the Poplars (documentary long poem by Cecily Nicholson)

Perpetual (graphic essays and art by Rita Wong and Cindy Mochizuki)

Settler Education (poems by Laurie D. Graham)

Show Me a Sign (novel for young adults by Ann Clare LeZotte)

* Some of these texts may be assigned in excerpted form. Course readings will also include articles, talks, videos, images, and podcasts made accessible on Canvas.

Other: