The University of Western Ontario

Sociology 2190G
Title: Decolonizing Canada
Winter 2022

Mondays @ 10:30-12:30

Instructor: Dr. Janice Forsyth
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Course Description:

What does "decolonization" mean? What factors facilitate its emergence and expansion? 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 emphasize theoretical and conceptual issues related to the thinking and practice of trying to 'decolonize' dominant institutions (e.g., justice, education, sport, etc.) that underpin the nation-state. A variety of teaching methods will be used to engage students in this in-person and online learning process, including lectures, discussions, documentary and film, podcasts and blogs, as well as guest lectures.

*Please note that for the 2021-2022 academic year, this course will be taught using a "blended" format. This means a minimum of 35% content will be delivered online, using asynchronous (face-to-face) and synchronous (not face-to-face) formats. Please note, given the ongoing challenges with Covid-19, the method of delivery outlined in this syllabus is subject to change depending on local health regulations.

Technical Requirements:

- Stable internet connection
- Laptop or desktop computer with updated software
- Working microphone
- Working webcam
- Western University Zoom application installed
- Detailed specifications (see "computer requirements"): https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/timetables.html
- Western Zoom page, including privacy information: https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html
- If you need technical assistance, first search the OWL Help Page, then contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk using their Online Helpdesk or by calling 519.661.3800 (if on campus, ext. 83800)

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic: Western has mandated the following note be included in all course outlines. This does not change the fact that 2190G is a blended course, though I appreciate the flexibility this offers for instruction and evaluation. *Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor. When deemed necessary, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at:* https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca.

Pre-requisite(s): None

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 2108F/G (King's College)

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

- Define what 'decolonization' means (and does not 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 weaknesses of decolonization as theory and practice.

Required Text:

- None. All readings will be available online or via Western Libraries. See our OWL course site for details.

Methods of Evaluation:

	Format	Due Date	Weighting
1	Multiple Choice Quiz	February 7 (online, <u>during</u> class hours)	10%
2	Response #1 (500-600 words)	Friday, February 11, on or before 4PM EST = feedback Monday, February 14, on or before 4PM EST = no feedback	10%
3	Comparative Analysis (1000-1200 words)	Friday, March 4, on or before 4PM EST = feedback Monday, March 7, on or before 4PM EST = no feedback	35%
4	Response #2 (500-600 words)	Friday, March 25 on or before 4PM EST = feedback Monday, March 28 on or before 4PM EST = no feedback	10%
5	Final Project (1000-1200 words)	*Assigned* in class, March 28 Due Friday, April 8, on or before 4PM EST	35%

Course Schedule:

January 10	online, synchronous	Introductions and Getting Started

First, we need to ground ourselves theoretically. What do we mean when we say we are going to 'decolonize' something? In our first segment we will focus on how leading Indigenous scholars define decolonization. We will compare and contrast those definitions to arrive at a shared understanding of what we think it means, as well as what it does not mean, by contrasting it with other descriptions and examples of colonization. This grounding exercise is important because we need conceptual clarity before we can put our theory into practice.

January 17	online, asynchronous	Key Terms: Decolonization and Colonization
January 24	online, synchronous	Prominent Thinkers, Part 1
January 31	online, synchronous	Prominent Thinkers, Part 2
February 7	online, asynchronous	*Online Quiz (10%)* (No Lecture)
February 14	in-person, AHB 2B02	Arriving at a Shared Definition
February 21-25	no class	Reading Week

Next, we will take a closer look at the political history of decolonization. Where does the term 'decolonization' come from? When did it emerge as a widespread term internationally and why is it so prevalent today? Does 'decolonization' mean something different internationally than it does in Canada, especially for Indigenous people? This segment is important because it will help us see and understand how decolonization is set within a larger global context that influences and shapes what is happening in Canada, and vice versa. It also helps us to appreciate how our present moment in time is connected to a much longer timeline of social and political action.

February 28	in-person, AHB 2B02	A Global Perspective, Part 1
March 7	online, synchronous	A Global Perspective, Part 2
March 14	in-person, AHB 2B02	Guest Speaker with Q&A

Lastly, we will spend some time trying to operationalize our theory. Now that we have a shared understanding of what decolonization means, how do we put it into practice? In other words, how do we decolonize something? Where do we start? How do we know when we are done? How do we know if we are on the right path? In this segment you will create a practical plan that aims to decolonize something that is important to you. The focus must be on something relevant in Canada and important to Indigenous people. This segment will be project based, mixed with class lectures and discussions.

March 21	online, synchronous	Practicing Decolonization, Getting Started
March 28	in-person, AHB 2B02	Examples of "How To" Decolonize *Final Project (35%) Assigned In-Class*
April 4	in-person, AHB 2B02	The Limits of Decolonization

Click here for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	Outstanding depth and breadth of analysis
A	80-89	Superior work, well above satisfactory analysis
B	70-79	Strong work, satisfactory analysis
C	60-69	Competent work, meets basic requirements
D	50-59	Minimally acceptable work
E	Below 50	Fail

Important Policies:

Policies for Assignment Deadlines

The multiple-choice test will be run through OWL with a 2-hour window to respond during class time (10:30-12:30). 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. Students who miss or who do not complete the quiz, for any reason, must secure "academic consideration" in order to be provided with a make-up quiz.

All written assignments are to be submitted electronically to the instructor and are due *on or before the date and time specified under "Methods of Evaluation" for each assignment.* A *5% deduction per day will apply to late papers,* including papers submitted after the specified time. This means, if your assignment is due at 4PM and you submit it electronically at 4:01PM, it will be considered late. Please see the Instructor in advance of the due date if an extension is required. Further information on "Academic Consideration for Missed Work" is below. Assignment objectives and rubrics will be posted on OWL, as well as discussed during class.

Should you have a concern about 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 strong analytical evidence, why you feel your grade does not reflect what you know.* The point of this exercise is to demonstrate to the instructor that you understand the material analytically, can articulate that knowledge clearly, and can back it up with appropriate evidence. Please be aware that in requesting a grade reassessment, your grade could go up/down/or stay the same. Note that calculation errors (which do occur!) should be brought to the instructor's 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 Comparative Analysis and Final Project in this course, since each is worth 35% of the 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.
www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

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 and below, under "Scholastic Offences").

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.