

Lakehead University
Department of Sociology

Sociology 4411FA
Advanced Perspectives in Social Theory: Settler Colonialism

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Fall 2021

Wednesday, 8:30 – 11:30 pm

Delivery: TBD

Office Hours

By appointment

Course Objective:

This course is designed to familiarize students with advanced perspectives in social theory that will help them understand current trends in sociological theory. Topics are chosen based on emerging relevant issues. For this course, participants will be looking at settler colonialism. It will be examined as an attempt to understand the relationships that exist between Indigenous peoples and colonial powers. The course will first look at the place of Indigenous peoples and colonialism in sociological theory. It will analyze the emergence of the theory of settler colonialism and examine its usefulness as theoretical model to help understand the current relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the place of Indigenous peoples and colonialism in both classical and contemporary sociological theory.
2. Describe and explain the relationship between Indigenous peoples and colonialism in Canadian sociological theory.
3. Define settler colonialism and explain how it emerged as a theoretical concept
4. Describe the relationship between the settler colonialism and other contemporary sociological theories.
5. Evaluate the usefulness of settler colonialism for understand the current relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.
6. Collect and evaluate both secondary sources and primary sources in order to address issues and questions related to the theory of settler colonialism.

Texts:

There will be no required texts. Students will be required to read articles to be downloaded off the internet.

Basis of Evaluation:

Mid-term Assignment.....25%

Research Proposal.....	10%
Participation.....	15%
Presentation.....	10%
Research Paper.....	40%

Mid-term Assignment: Participants will be given a take home assignment on Oct. 6th to be completed and handed in by Oct.20th. The assignment will be comprised of a list of short essay questions relating to material dealt with in the first part of the course.

Research Proposal: One of the main requirements of this course is to prepare a research paper on a key question relating to the theory of settler colonialism. The paper itself is described below but to ensure that you are prepared to write this paper you will be required to hand in a 4 page, 1000 word proposal on Feb. 23rd. This proposal should contain a section with a background section explaining why the topic you chose is important (why you chose it), a section containing a clear hypothesis/research question, a section describing how you will examine your hypothesis/research question (ie a road map of the paper), and a suggested bibliography with at least 6 key sources.

Participation: This course will be run as a seminar. For this reason, it is important that all participants are actively involved in the discussions. This means that readings should be completed before each session and that participants arrive with questions and points of interest to discuss. Participation marks will be based on attendance, level and quality of participation in discussions, and level of preparedness for each session. The more a participant contributes to creating an interesting, informative, and supportive leaning environment during the seminar the higher the participation mark.

Presentation: During the last two weeks of the course you will be required to present the finding of your research paper. Presentations should be 30 minutes long followed by 15 minutes of questions.

Research Paper: Participants will be required to write a 15-20 page (4000 to 5000 word) research paper on a key question relating to the theory of settler colonialism and the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada. Topics should be chosen in consultation with the professor. The completed paper is due on December 8, 2021. Research papers should use the manuscript format suggested by the American Sociological Association.

Please note that plagiarism is unacceptable and subject to various sanctions. Please see the university regulations section on academic dishonesty in the Calendar. For advice to avoid plagiarism please see <http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html>

Soc 4113 FA Course Structure and Readings

Part One: Concepts and basic structures

Session 1 Introduction to the course: What is settler colonialism and why it is important for contemporary sociological theory?

Veracini, Lorenzo. 2011. "Introducing: Settler Colonial Studies." *Settler Colonial Studies* 1(1):1-12.

Barker, Adam J. 2012. "Locating Settler Colonialism." *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 13(3).

Session 2 Colonialism, Indigenous people and Classical Sociological Theory

*Bourne, H. R. Fox. 1900. *The Claims of Uncivilised Races a Paper Submitted to the International Congress on Colonial Sociology, Held in Paris in August, 1900*. London: Aborigines Protection Society. (*Warning – this article contains language that is today considered offensive. Please read it critically. It is meant to be an example of social thought of the pre-World War 1 period.)

Seidman, Steven. 2013. "The Colonial Unconscious of Classical Sociology." in *Postcolonial Sociology*, edited by J. Go. Bingley, UK: Emerald Group Publishing Limited.

Session 3 Colonialism and Sociological Theory in the 20th Century: Modernization Theory and Dependency Theory

Tipps, Dean C. 1973. "Modernization Theory and the Comparative Study of National Societies: A Critical Perspective." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 15(2):199-226.

Frank, Andre Gunder. 1975. "Development and Underdevelopment in the New World: Smith and Marx Vs. The Weberians." *Theory and Society* 2(1):431-66.

Session 4 Indigenous peoples and Settler colonialism

Wolfe, Patrick. 1997. "History and Imperialism: A Century of Theory, from Marx to Postcolonialism." *The American Historical Review* 102(2):388-420.

Veracini, Lorenzo. 2013. "'Settler Colonialism': Career of a Concept." *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 41(2):313-33.

Session 6 Criticisms of settler colonialism

Petray, Theresa. 2012. "Can Theory Disempower? Making Space for Agency in Theories of Indigenous Issues." in *Theorising Indigenous Sociology: Australian*

Perspectives. , edited by D. Howard-Wagner, D. Habibis and T. Petray. Sydney, Australia: University of Sydney e-Press.

Carey, Jane and Ben Silverstein. 2020. "Thinking with and Beyond Settler Colonial Studies: New Histories after the Postcolonial." *Postcolonial studies* 23(1):1-20. doi: 10.1080/13688790.2020.1719569.

Part Two: Settler Colonialism and Canada

Session 7 Canadian Sociological Theory and Indigenous People

Denis, Jeffrey S. 2015. "Contact Theory in a Small-Town Settler-Colonial Context: The Reproduction of Laissez-Faire Racism in Indigenous-White Canadian Relations." *American Sociological Review* 80(1):218-42.

McGuire Patricia, D. 2012. "Indigenous Spaces in Sociology." in *Reading Sociology: Canadian Perspectives*, edited by L. Tepperman and A. Kalyta. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Watts, Vanessa, Gregory Hooks and Neil McLaughlin. 2020. "A Troubling Presence: Indigeneity in English-Language Canadian Sociology." *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie* 57(1):7-33.

Session 8 Settler colonialism in Canada Part 1

Watkins, M. 1977. "From Underdevelopment to Development." Pp. 84-99 in *Dene Nation - the Colony Within*, edited by M. Watkins. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Coulthard, Glen S. 2007. "Subjects of Empire: Indigenous Peoples and the 'Politics of Recognition' in Canada." *Contemporary political theory* 6(4):437-60. doi: 10.1057/palgrave.cpt.9300307.

Session 9 Settler colonialism in Canada Part 2

Kulchyski, Peter. 2016. "Hunting Theories: Totalisation and Indigenous Resistances in Canada." *Historical Materialism* 24(3):30-44.

Simpson, Audra. 2016. "Whither Settler Colonialism?". *Settler Colonial Studies* 6(4):438-45.

Session 10 Criticisms of settler colonialism in Canada

Fung, A. 2021. "Is Settler Colonialism Just Another Study of Whiteness?". *Canadian Ethnic Studies-Etudes Ethniques Au Canada* 53(2):115-31.

Session 11 and 12 Presentations

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs may request accommodations in accordance with the Senate Policy on Students with Disabilities. Such students should at the earliest opportunity advise the Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Learning Assistance Centre) and the instructor of such needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made to accommodate their needs. Those who encounter extenuating circumstances which may interfere with the successful completion of the course should, as soon as possible, discuss these circumstances with the instructor and the Student Accessibility Services.

Lakehead Policy on Academic Dishonesty

As academic integrity is crucial to the pursuit of university education, students are expected to uphold the academic honour code at all times and are advised to familiarise themselves with the university's policy on academic dishonesty, especially in relation, but not limited, to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation etc. In order to make sure that a degree awarded by Lakehead University is a reflection of the honest efforts and individual academic achievement of each student, Lakehead University treats cases of academic dishonesty very seriously and severely penalises those caught in violation of the university's policy on academic honesty.

LAKEHEAD RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, don't hesitate to ask for help! If it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your academic advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus, including:

The Student Success Centre has many programs and support services in place to help you achieve your academic and personal goals while studying at Lakehead University. They provide academic support through tutoring services, career exploration, co-operative opportunities and leadership development. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>.

The Lakehead Library provides access to resources, study rooms, and research support both online via chat and in person with more details available here <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/>.

Public Computer Labs are available on campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For more details go to <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/helpdesk/computer-labs>.

Student Life and Services offers health and wellness resources both on and off campus, as well as opportunities for involvement in health and wellness activities. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/or>.

Office of Human Rights and Equity. You have the right to an education that is free from any form of discrimination. A wide variety of resources are available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity/resources>.