**INTD : Directed Reading in Postcolonial Theory and Action**

Location: MCCAIN ARTS & SS 3043

Fridays, 9:05 – 11:55 (see schedule below)

*Dalhousie University is built on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Mi’kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people first signed with the British crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi’kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. Dalhousie students are encouraged to consult the treaty, available online (via transcription), or in original form at the Nova Scotia Archives in Halifax. <*[*https://novascotia.ca/archives/mikmaq/archives.asp?ID=609*](https://novascotia.ca/archives/mikmaq/archives.asp?ID=609)*>*

This directed reading course is meant to serve as a survey-based introduction to thinking theoretically and practically about the complex problems arising from ongoing colonisation. The class is reading intensive, meaning that expectations for careful and critical reading of all texts are a must, and comprise a full 50% of the course’s evaluation. Students will receive extensive feedback on their written proposal and term paper, which together comprise the additional 50%. The course is divided into three main themes – empirical groundings, theoretical groundings, and political action scholarship. We begin with a process of disorienting ourselves from conventional academic narratives about the history of Turtle Island, and continue with grounding our analysis in the scholarly writing of Indigenous authors. We move on to consider the role of the state in brokering our modern/colonial imbrications before moving into theoretical study of postcolonialism, decoloniality, Indigenous resurgence, and the application of these knowledges to social justice activism and policy.

Assignments:

**Participation and Reading Notebook (45%)**

Due: Throughout

It is important to come to meetings prepared to discuss the texts under study. Keep track of difficult concepts, things you disagree with or do not understand, and bring it to the table for conversation. Students are asked to keep a reading notebook through the semester which reflects on your learning process and ideas about the texts as you are reading them, but also following in person conversation as well. The reading notebook will be submitted at the end of term and will serve as supporting material towards your participation grade. Here we prioritize collegiality and professionalism.

**Term Paper Proposal (20%)**

Due: Nov. 3

A solid paper proposal is expected for this course, in which you pitch the premise for your term paper, identify the sources of literature (which can include syllabus sources) you will draw upon and your in progress argument. As this is a directed reading course, the topic you choose to delve into is largely open ended, but will be an ongoing area of conversation in each meeting until our designated meeting to discuss the proposal.

**Seminar Paper: 30%**

Due: Dec. 1

The seminar paper will further develop your research proposal a full fledged research essay. Undergrads should aim for approximately 12-15 double spaced pages, MA students, 17 – 20 page3s, and PhD students as long as would be appropriate for a dissertation chapter or journal article. Your papers will be graded in accordance to your level of study.

**Critical Self-Assessment (5%)**

Due: Dec. 5

Reflexivity is an important and undervalued skill. No one is better equipped than you to evaluate your work and the intellectual progress that you have made. This short assignment will help you begin the process of reflecting on how your own points of views have developed over the course. It will be approximately 1 -2 pages in length.

Meeting Schedule:

**September: Empirical Groundings**

**Meeting 1, Sept. 8:  Aboriginal Worldviews**

* Crowshoe, Reg and Eagle, Geoff Crow. “Blackfoot.” transcript and flash version available online at <[www.fourdirectionsteachings.com](http://www.fourdirectionsteachings.com)>
* Lee, Mary. “Cree.” transcript and flash version available online at <[www.fourdirectionsteachings.com](http://www.fourdirectionsteachings.com)>
* Pitawanakwat, Lilliam. “Ojibwe.” transcript and flash version available online at <[www.fourdirectionsteachings.com](http://www.fourdirectionsteachings.com)>
* Porter, Tom. “Mohawk.” transcript and flash version available online at <[www.fourdirectionsteachings.com](http://www.fourdirectionsteachings.com)>
* Augustine, Stephen. “Mi’kmak” transcript and flash version available online at <[www.fourdirectionsteachings.com](http://www.fourdirectionsteachings.com)>
* Oren Lyons, “We Are Part of the Earth” available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSwmqZ272As>

**Meeting 2, Sept. 22: Where We Stand**

* Dan Paul, *We Were Not The Savages* (Halifax: Fernwood, 2006)

**October: Theoretical Groundings**

**Meeting 3, Oct. 13 – Postcolonial Theory and Action**

* Ranajit Guha, *History at the Limits of World History* (New York: Colombia University Press, 2002)
* Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched Of The Earth.* Translated by Richard Philcox. (New York: Groves Press, 2004)
* Aime Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*, Joan Pinkham (trans) (New York: Monthly Review

Press, 2000).

* Nissim Mannathukkaren, “Reading cricket fiction in the times of Hindu nationalism and farmer suicides: Fallacies of textual interpretation” *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 24/9(2007): 1200 – 1225
* Gurminder Bhambra, “Postcolonial and Decolonial Dialogues,” *Postcolonial Studies* 17/2(2014): pp 17 – 24
* Vinaya Lal, “Subaltern Studies and Its Critics: Debates over Indian History” *History and Theory* 40(Jan. 2001): 135 – 148

**Meeting 4, Oct. 27 – Decolonial Options**

* Arturo Escobar, “Thinking-Feeling With the Earth: Territorial Struggles and the Ontological Dimensions of the Epistemologies of the South” *Revisita de Anthropologia Iberoamericana* 11/1(2015): 11 – 36, available online: <<http://www.aibr.org/antropologia/netesp/numeros/1101/110102e.pdf>>
* Cristina Rojas, “Contesting the Colonial Logics of the International: Toward a Relational Politics for the Pluriverse” *International Political Sociology* 2016 pre-print online..
* Marisol de la Cadena, “Indigenous Cosmopolitics in the Andes: Conceptual Reflections Beyond Politics” *Cultural Anthropology* 25/2(2010): 334 – 370
* Ajay Parasram, “Hunting the State of Nature: Race and Ethics in Postcolonial International Relations” in Brent J. Steele and Eric Heinze (eds). *Routledge Handbook of Ethics and International Relations* (New York: Routledge, 2017)
* Russel Means, “For America to Live, Europe Must Die” available online : <http://www.blackhawkproductions.com/russelmeans.html>

**November: Action and Scholarship**

**Meeting 5, Nov. 3: Transnational Connections and Solidarities**

Note: Paper Proposals due today and will be discussed.

Reading:

Forum on Robbie Shilliam, *The Black Pacific: Anti-Colonial Struggles and Oceanic Connections* (London, Bloomsbury, 2015) available online at <https://thedisorderofthings.com/tag/the-black-pacific/>

Important to read these blog posts in order:

1. Shilliam – Thinking Besides the Subaltern <https://thedisorderofthings.com/2016/01/28/the-black-pacific-thinking-besides-the-subaltern/>
2. Weber – Anti-Colonial Struggles and Oceanic Connections <https://thedisorderofthings.com/2016/01/29/anti-colonial-struggles-and-oceanic-connections/#more-12123>
3. Krishna – of Uncolonized Spiritual Hinterlands <https://thedisorderofthings.com/2016/01/31/of-uncolonized-spiritual-hinterlands/#more-12164>
4. Parasram – We Nah` Want No Devil Philosophy <https://thedisorderofthings.com/2016/02/01/we-nah-want-no-devil-philosophy-a-note-on-the-decolonial-science-of-the-black-pacific/>
5. Rutazibwa – Comforting Discomfort of Rebel Music: Some Diaspora Legba/Pākehā Reflections <https://thedisorderofthings.com/2016/02/03/comforting-discomfort-of-rebel-music-some-diaspora-legbapakeha-reflections-on-robbie-shilliams-the-black-pacific/>
6. Shilliam – More Groundings <https://thedisorderofthings.com/tag/the-black-pacific/>

November 17 – Indigenous Resurgence

* Leanne Simpson, “Nogojiwanong” in *Islands of Decolonial Love* (Winnipeg: ARP Books, 2013) pp. 113 – 126
* Jeffrey Corntassle (2012) [**Re-envisioning Resurgence: Indigenous pathways to decolonization and sustainable self-determination:**](http://decolonization.org/index.php/des/article/view/18627/15550)
* Jeffrey Corntassle (2013) [**We Belong to Each Other: Resurgent Indigenous Nations:**](http://nationsrising.org/we-belong-to-each-other-resurgent-indigenous-nations/)
* Glen Sean Coulthard *Red Skins White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Representation* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014). --. Skim, but focus on chapter 2: For The Land + Lessons from Idle No More: The Future of Indigenous Activism
* Hunt, Sarah. “Ontologies of Indigeneity: the politics of embodying a concept” *Cultural Geographies* 21/1(2014): 27 - 32
* Leanne Simpson and Glen Coulthard, “Grounded Normativity/Placed Based Solidarity” *American Quarterly* 68/2(2015): 249 – 255 <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/622080/pdf>

Viewing:

* Taiaike Alfred, “Research as Indigenous Resurgence” Lecture given at Carleton University, Dec. 11, 2015. Available for viewing online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myIUkzbiG_o>
* Wab Kinew, “500 Years of History in 2 minutes” *Lighting the 8th Fire* available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7LY-fXzhZI>

Dec. 1 – Social Justice and Research

Most Important:

* Horace Miner, “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” *The American Anthropologist* 58(1956): 503 - 507 <http://www.ohio.edu/people/thompsoc/Body.html>
* Taiaike Alfred (2016) Research As Indigenous Resurgence. Lecture given at Carleton University, available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myIUkzbiG_o>
* Marisol de la Cadena, *Earth Beings: Ecologies of Practice Across Andean Worlds* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2015)
  + Story 1: Agreeing to Remember, Translating, and Carefully Co-labouring. Pp 1 – 34
* Bonita Lawrence and Enakshi Dua, 2005. “Decolonizing Anti-Racism” *Social Justice* 32/4: 120 – 144.
* Jennifer Matsunaga. “Two faces of transitional justice: Theorizing the incommensurability of transitional justice and decolonization in Canada.” Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society, 5/1(2016): <http://decolonization.org/index.php/des/article/view/26530>
* Antony Anghie, “Francisco de Vitoria and the Colonial Origins of International Law” *Social and Legal Studies* 5/3(1996): 321 – 336.
* Hill, Susan M. “‘Travelling Down the River of Life Together in Peace and Friendship, Forever’: Haudenosaunee Land Ethics and Treaty Agreements as the Basis for Restructuring the Relationship with the British Crown, in Simpson, Leanne (ed.) *Lighting the Eighth Fire: The Liberation, Resurgence, and Protection of Indigenous Nations* (Winnipeg: Arbeiter Ring Publishing, 2008) pages 23 – 44

If you have time

* Anthony Pagden, “Fellow Citizens and Imperial Subjects: Conquest and Sovereignty in Europe’s Overseas Empires” *History and Theory* 44 (2005): 28 – 46
* Robbie Shilliam and Olivia Rutazibwa (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Postcolonial Politics* (New York: Routledge, 2018)

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