

HIST 361 – The Canadian West
McGill University, Department of History and Classical Studies
Fall 2014

Course Director: Dr. Daniel Rueck
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Location: Leacock 808
Class times: Tue, Thu | 8h35 – 9h55

Office Hours: Tuesday 12-1pm, Wednesday 2-3pm or by appointment.

Office Location: Ferrier Building 331 (moving to Room 332 in September)

Directions: Enter the Ferrier Building from Docteur-Penfield Avenue. Turn right and enter Ferrier 333 (Quebec Studies). Turn left and walk straight until you enter a room lined with books. You will find Ferrier 331 on your left. Important: The door to Ferrier 333 is unlocked only from 10am to 5pm.

Prerequisite: HIST 202 or HIST 203 or permission of instructor

Course Description

This course explores aspects of the last five hundred years of what is today known as Western Canada. The history of this region has often been told as if it were simply a story of progress from simplicity to complexity, from savagery to civilization, and from underdevelopment to development. This course takes another approach in that it recognizes Indigenous civilizations of the Canadian West as complete and developed societies that were devastated by settler invasions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. That the Northwest became Canada at all was not a foregone conclusion, and this course examines the evolution of this region in all of its complexity. The course will focus heavily on topics related to Indigenous peoples and colonialism, but will also cover topics such as gender, fur trade, immigration, race, sexuality, art, language, religion and spirituality, geography, environment, and regional political movements and cultures.

Format

This class will be heavily oriented toward discussion of readings, films, and lectures. It is of primary importance that students attend every class and keep up with the assigned readings. The major research assignment is split up into a research proposal, a research paper and a class presentation.

MyCourses

The MyCourses site for this course will be used to provide links to required readings and access to other items related to the course. Material on MyCourses is provided for your personal use only.

Email Communication

It is very important that you regularly check your McGill email account for course-related announcements. If you have simple questions feel free to send me an email, but for anything requiring more than a one-sentence response, please visit me during office hours. Before asking me a question by email, please check the syllabus to see if it contains the answer.

Evaluation

- 15% Research Proposal (due Sept 23): A 2-3 page research proposal for a research project related to the history of Western Canada.
- 10% Research Presentation (Nov 4-13): A 10-15 min. presentation on your research project including a powerpoint presentation. Students will sign up for available dates on the first week of class. **Important note:** Students will be responsible for material from presentations on the final exam.
- 30% Research Essay (due Nov 25): A 12-14 page thesis-driven research paper on a topic related to the history of Western Canada.
- 30% Final Exam (take home): The exam may draw from lectures, guest lectures, films, student presentations, and readings.
- 15% Participation: Participation means arriving to class on time and having carefully read the assigned texts in advance. Students are expected to participate during times allocated for discussion. Attempting to participate in discussion without having done the readings will not result in high participation grades. If are anxious about speaking up in this context or if you have another reason for not engaging in this way, please let me know as soon as possible so we can find solutions. Those students who enjoy speaking and debating also have a responsibility to allow space for quieter students to be heard.

Assignment Submission

Assignments must be submitted in paper format at the beginning of class on the date due. An assignment will be considered late if it is submitted after the class has begun. I will not accept email submissions. Assignments will not be accepted after the last class.

Late Assignments

No extensions will be granted in advance. A penalty of 2% per working day will be deducted from late assignments. This penalty may be waived in the event of unforeseen emergencies such as illness (please note that a heavy work load for other classes or paid employment does not qualify as an unforeseen emergency). If your assignment is late and you believe you should not be penalized, please attach a note of explanation along with any supporting documentation you think appropriate. The late penalty will be waived, in part or in whole, as seems justified. You may submit your late assignment at the beginning of a following class or by slipping it under my office door. Assignments will not be accepted after the last class.

Disputed Grades

If you believe your mark for a particular assignment is incorrect you may resubmit the graded copy along with a written explanation for why you believe you should receive a different grade. The newly-assessed grade will replace the original grade. Please take into account that the newly-assessed grade may be higher, lower, or unchanged.

Liason Librarian Office Hours

Liaison Librarian for History and Classical Studies, Eamon Duffy, is available to help students with library research. He will be in Leacock 632 (TA lounge) Mondays from 10am to 12pm.

Official McGill Policies

1. McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. For more information:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/>

1. L'Université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires.

<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/>

2. In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

2. Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

Course Books and Readings

The following books are recommended for purchase. They are available at Paragraphe Bookstore (2220 Avenue McGill College). There are also copies on course reserves. All other readings are provided on MyCourses or can be found in a digital format in the library.

Cavanaugh, Catherine, and Jeremy Mouat, eds. *Making Western Canada: Essays on European Colonization and Settlement*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1996.

Daschuk, James. *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*. Regina, Saskatchewan: University of Regina Press, 2013.

Lutz, John S. *Makúk: A new history of Aboriginal-White relations*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2008.

Course Outline

Week 1 What is the "Canadian West"?

1. **Tue Sept 2 Introduction**
2. **Thu Sept 4 Discussion: What is the "Canadian West"? How do we know and tell its history?**

In-Class Film: Avatar (2009) (selections)

Required Readings

- Mouat, Jeremy. "The Past of my Place': Western Canadian Artists and the Uses of History." In *Making Western Canada: Essays on European Colonization and Settlement*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Jeremy Mouat, 244-266. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.
- Dick, Lyle. "The Seven Oaks Incident and the Construction of a Historical Tradition, 1816-1970." In *Making Western Canada: Essays on European Colonization and Settlement*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Jeremy Mouat, 1-30. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

Week 2 Sources

Required Readings

- Binnema, Theodore. "How Does a Map Mean? Old Swan's Map of 1801 and the Blackfoot World." In *From Rupert's Land to Canada*, edited by Gerhard John Ens, John Elgin Foster, R. C. Macleod and Theodore Binnema, 201-224. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2001.
- Thrush, Coll. "Vancouver the Cannibal: Cuisine, Encounter, and the Dilemma of Difference on the Northwest Coast, 1774–1808." *Ethnohistory* 58, no. 1 (2011): 1-35.
- Ames, Kenneth M., and Herbert D.G. Maschner. "Northwest Coast Art" in *Peoples of the Northwest Coast: Their Archaeology and Prehistory*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1999.

3. **Tue Sept 9 Pre-Colonial Histories**

In-Class Films: Atanarjuat The Fast Runner (2001) (selection) and The Cave (2009)

4. **Thu Sept 11 Discussion: Sources in Pre-Colonial and Colonial History**

In-Class Film: In the Land of the War Canoes (1914)

Week 3 Discoveries

Required Readings

- Wickwire, Wendy C. "To See Ourselves as the Other's Other: Nlaka'pamux contact narratives." *Canadian Historical Review* 75, no. 1 (1994): 1-20.
- Whaley, Gray. "'Complete Liberty'? Gender, Sexuality, Race, and Social Change on the Lower Columbia River, 1805–1838." *Ethnohistory* 54, no. 4 (2007): 669-695.
- Lutz, John S. Preface and Chapters 1-2, *Makúk: A new history of Aboriginal-White relations*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2008.

- 5. Tue Sept 16 Early Contact and Colonialism**
- 6. Thu Sept 18 Discussion: Indigenous discovery of Europeans & vice versa**

Week 4 Trade

Required Readings

- Podruchny, Carolyn. "It Is The Paddle That Brings Us: Voyageurs Working in Canoes." In *Making the Voyageur World: Travelers and Traders in the North American Fur Trade*, 86-133. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006.
- St-Onge, Nicole, and Carolyn Podruchny. "Scuttling Along a Spider's Web: Mobility and Kinship in Metis Ethnogenesis." In *Contours of a People: Métis Family, Mobility and History*, edited by Carolyn Podruchny, Nicole St. Onge and Brenda Macdougall, 59-92. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012. (ebook in library)
- Van Kirk, Sylvia. "Your Honors Servants" and "Women in Between" in *Many Tender Ties: Women in Fur-Trade Society, 1670-1870*: Watson & Dwyer, 1999 [1980].

- 7. Tue Sept 23 Fur Trade and Diplomacy 1640-1840**
Research Proposal Due

In-Class Film: Ikwe (1986 NFB)

- 8. Thu Sept 25 Discussion: Fur Trade and Ethnogenesis**

Week 5 Colonialism

Required Readings

- Preface and Introduction to *Making Western Canada*
- Witgen, Michael. "The Rituals of Possession: Native Identity and the Invention of Empire in Seventeenth-Century Western North America." *Ethnohistory* 54, no. 4 (2007): 639-668.
- Banner, Stuart. "Introduction" and "British Columbia: Terra Nullius as Kindness," in *Possessing the Pacific: Land, settlers, and indigenous people from Australia to Alaska*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007.
- Lutz, John S. Chapter 3, *Makúk: A new history of Aboriginal-White relations*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2008.

9. Tue Sept 30 **Indigenous Peoples and Colonialism to 1870**
10. Thu Oct 2 **Discussion: Indigenous Peoples and Colonialism to 1870**

Week 6 Invasion

Required Readings

Daschuk, James. *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*. Regina, Saskatchewan: University of Regina Press, 2013.

11. Tue Oct 7 **Confederation and Invasion 1870-1900**
12. Thu Oct 9 **Discussion: Disease, Starvation, Death, and Canada**

Week 7 Settlement

Required Readings

Cavanaugh, Catherine. "The Limitations of Pioneering Partnership: The Alberta Campaign for Homestead Dower, 1909-1925." In *Making Western Canada: Essays on European Colonization and Settlement*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Jeremy Mouat, 186-214. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

Carter, Sarah. "The Exploitation and Narration of the Captivity of Theresa Delaney and Theresa Gowanlock, 1885." In *Making Western Canada: Essays on European Colonization and Settlement*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Jeremy Mouat, 31-61. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

Loo, Tina. "Tonto's Due: Law, Culture, and Colonization in British Columbia." In *Making Western Canada: Essays on European Colonization and Settlement*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Jeremy Mouat, 62-103. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

13. Tue Oct 14 **Canada in the West 1870-1905**

Research Assignment Due

14. Thu Oct 16 **Discussion: Agriculture, Settlement, and Colonialism**

Week 8 Nature

Required Readings

Sandlos, John. "Not Wanted in the Boundary: The expulsion of the Keeseekoowenin Ojibway band from Riding Mountain National Park." *Canadian Historical Review* 89, no. 2 (2008): 189-221.

Rajala, Richard A. "Clearcutting the British Columbia Coast: Work, Environment and the State, 1880-1930." In *Making Western Canada: Essays on European Colonization and Settlement*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Jeremy Mouat, 104-132. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

Lutz, John S. Chapter 4, *Makúk: A new history of Aboriginal-White relations*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2008.

15. Tue Oct 21 Western Environments
16. Thu Oct 23 Discussion: Parks, Dams, Forests

Week 9 Race

Required Readings

- Stanley, Timothy J. "Schooling, White Supremacy, and the Formation of a Chinese Merchant Public in British Columbia." In *Making Western Canada: Essays on European Colonization and Settlement*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Jeremy Mouat, 215-243. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.
- Androsoff, Ashleigh. "A Larger Frame: "Redressing" the Image of Doukhobor-Canadian Women in the Twentieth Century." *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* 18, no. 1 (2007): 81-105.
- Lutz, John S. Chapter 7, *Makúk: A new history of Aboriginal-White relations*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2008.

17. Tue Oct 28 Guest Lecture: Elsbeth Heaman
18. Thu Oct 30 Discussion: Race and Immigration

Week 10 Topics

Required Reading

- Lutz, John S. Chapter 5, *Makúk: A new history of Aboriginal-White relations*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2008.

19. Tue Nov 4 Research Presentations
20. Thu Nov 6 Research Presentations

Week 11 Topics

Required Reading

- Lutz, John S. Chapter 6, *Makúk: A new history of Aboriginal-White relations*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2008.

21. Tue Nov 11 Research Presentations
22. Thu Nov 13 Research Presentations

Week 12 Work

Required Readings

Lutz, John S. Chapters 8-9, *Makúk: A new history of Aboriginal-White relations*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2008.

Leier, Mark. "Workers and Intellectuals: The Theory of the New Class and Early Canadian Socialism." In *Making Western Canada: Essays on European Colonization and Settlement*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Jeremy Mouat, 133-153. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

Danysk, Cecilia. "'A Bachelor's Paradise': Homesteaders, Hired Hands, and the Construction of Masculinity, 1880-1930." In *Making Western Canada: Essays on European Colonization and Settlement*, edited by Catherine Cavanaugh and Jeremy Mouat, 154-186. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

23. Tue Nov 18 Discussion: Work, Labour, and Depression

24. Thu Nov 20 Research Essay Peer Review

Week 13 Urbanization

Required Readings

Stranger-Ross, Jordan. "Municipal Colonialism in Vancouver: City Planning and the Conflict over Indian Reserves, 1928-1950s." *Canadian Historical Review* 89, no. 4 (2008): 541-580.

Kheraj, Sean. "Restoring Nature: Ecology, Memory, and the Storm History of Vancouver's Stanley Park." *Canadian Historical Review* 88, no. 4 (2007): 577-612.

25. Tue Nov 25 Vancouver
Research Essay Due

26. Thu Nov 27 TBA
Take-Home Exam Given

Week 14 Conclusions

27. Tue Dec 2 Conclusions
Take-Home Exam Due