

**GEOG 5600: Empire and Colonialism**  
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

**Full Syllabus provided in class**

Fall Term 2024  
Fridays 11:35am to 2:25pm

Instructor: Dr. Emilie Cameron  
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This course focuses on the geographic articulations of empire and colonialism. We will begin by engaging with some key theoretical approaches to empire and colonialism both within and beyond the discipline of geography, including feminist, Indigenous, antiracist, Black, Marxist, and post-structuralist approaches. Next, we will consider a range of “sites” of colonial and imperial formation, including land, territory, the body, and the non-human. In the third part of the course we will focus on forms of resistance, resurgence, and decolonization, as well as emerging scholarship that both questions the limits of past approaches to the study of empire and aims to conceptualize imperial, colonial, and decolonizing processes in new ways.

The overall purpose of this course is:

- To situate geographic approaches to empire within the discipline of geography and in relation to key source texts across the social sciences and humanities;
- To analyze various forms of knowledge and practice associated with imperial domination, as well as forms of resistance, resurgence, and decolonization;
- To grapple with contemporary imperial formations and the potential and limits of geographic scholarship for coming to terms with the imperial and colonial present;
- To support the development of your own research projects, as well as your writing, reading, critical thinking, and presentation skills.

## **I. Approaches to Empire**

### **Sept 8– Introductions**

### **Sept 15 – Power/Knowledge and Postcolonialism**

Required:

- Said, E. 1978. “Introduction” in *Orientalism*, New York: Vintage, pp 1-9.
- Foucault, M. 2003 [1976] Chapter 11, *Society Must Be Defended: Lectures at the College de France 1975-1976*, New York: Picador, pp 239-264
- Dorries, H., & Ruddick, S. 2018. Between concept and context: reading Gilles Deleuze and Leanne Simpson in their in/commensurabilities. *Cultural Geographies*, 25(4), 619–635

### **Sept 22 – Colonialism and Primitive Accumulation**

Required:

- Marx, K. 1976. *Capital Volume 1*, Chapters 26-33.
- Coulthard, G. 2014. Introduction to *Red Skin White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press), pp 1-25.

- Glassman, J. 2006. Primitive accumulation, accumulation by dispossession, accumulation by 'extra-economic' means, *Progress in Human Geography*, 30 (5): 608-625.

### **Sept 29: Settler Colonialism**

Required:

- Wolfe, P. 2006. Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native, *Journal of Genocide Research* 8 (4): 387–409
- Snelgrove, C., J Corntassel, R. Dhamoon. 2014. Unsettling settler colonialism: The discourse and politics of settlers, and solidarity with Indigenous nations, *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*, 3 (2): 1-32.
- Veracini, L. 2011. Introducing, *Settler Colonial Studies*, 1:1, 1-12.
- King, T.L. 2019. Preface, *The Black Shoals: Offshore Formations of Black and Native Studies*. Duke UP, ix-xv

### **Oct 6: Racial Capitalism and Black Geographies**

Required:

- Hartman, S. 1996. Seduction and the Ruses of Power. *Callaloo* 19 (2): 537-560.
- Wilderson III, F.B. 2015. Blacks and the Master-Slave Relation. Interview with C. S. Soong, in *Afro-Pessimism: An Introduction*. Minneapolis: racked and dispatched, pp. 15-30. <https://rackedanddispatched.noblogs.org/files/2017/01/Afro-Pessimism2.pdf>
- Melamed, J. 2015. Racial capitalism, *Journal of the Critical Ethnic Studies Association*, 1 (1): 76-85.
- Sharpe, C. 2015. *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*. Durham: Duke University Press, Ch 1 pp. 1-24.

### **Oct 13: Feminist Materialist Approaches to Empire and Colonialism**

Required:

- Spivak, G. C. 1988. Can the Subaltern Speak? In *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, eds. C. Nelson & L. Grossberg, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, pp. 271-316.
- Federici, S. 2004. Preface, Introduction, and Chapter 2 of *The Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation*. Brooklyn: Autonomedia, pp. 7-19 and 61-131.

## **II. Sites of Imperial Formation**

### **Oct 20 – Land, territory, resources**

Required:

- Kuokkanen, R. 2011. From Indigenous Economies to Market-Based Self-Governance: A Feminist Political Economy Analysis, *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 44(2): 275–97.
- Pasternak, S. 2020. Assimilation and Partition: How Settler Colonialism and Racial Capitalism Co-produce the Borders of Indigenous Economies. *South Atlantic Quarterly*, 119 (2): 301–324.
- Atleo, C. 2022. Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Canada's Carbon Economy and Indigenous Ambivalence. Ch 13 in W. K. Carroll (Ed.) *Regime of obstruction: how corporate power blocks energy democracy*. Athabasca University Press, pp 355-373.

### **Oct 27 – NO CLASS (Reading Week)**

### **Nov 3 – Relations with Non-Humans**

Required:

- de la Cadena, M. 2010. Indigenous Cosmopolitics in the Andes: Conceptual Reflections beyond “Politics,” *Cultural Anthropology*, 25: 334–370.
- Watts, V. 2013. Indigenous Place-Thought and Agency Amongst Humans and Non Humans (First Woman and Sky Woman Go On a European World Tour!), *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*, 2 (1): 20-34.
- Collard, R-C and Dempsey, J. 2017. Capitalist Natures in Five Orientations, *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 28:1, 78-97.

### **Nov 10– Bodies, violence, life**

Required:

- Fanon, F. 2008 [1952]. The Lived Experience of the Black Man. In *Black Skin White Masks*, New York: Grove Press, pp. 89-119
- Mbembe, A. 2003. Necropolitics, *Public Culture* 15 (1): 11-40
- Simpson, A. 2016. The State is a Man: Theresa Spence, Loretta Saunders and the Gender of Settler Sovereignty, *Theory and Event* 19 (4).

### **III. Contemporary (Anti)imperialisms**

#### **Nov 17 – Refusal, Resurgence**

Required:

- Simpson, L. 2017. *As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom Through Radical Resistance*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, Chapters 10-12, pp 175-231.
- Tuck, E. and W. Yang. 2012. Decolonization is not a metaphor, *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education, and Society* 1 (1): 1-40.
- Daigle, M. and Ramírez, M.M. 2019. Decolonial geographies. *Keywords in radical geography: Antipode at 50*, pp.78-84.

#### **Nov 24 – Reparations and Land Back**

Required:

- Coates, T. 2014. The case for reparations, *The Atlantic*.  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>
- Taiwo, O. 2022. *Reconsidering Reparations*. Oxford UP (Selections)
- Yellowhead Institute, 2019. *Land Back: A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper*.  
<https://redpaper.yellowheadinstitute.org/>
- Ramirez, M. 2020. Take the houses back/take the land back: Black and Indigenous urban futures in Oakland, *Urban Geography*, 41:5, 682-693

#### **Dec 1 – Discussion of Final Papers/Conclusions**

- No required readings

### **Evaluation**

20% Participation

20% Weekly Reading Responses

20% Annotated Bibliography/Facilitation

40% Term Paper

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