Canada’s Religious Diversity

Lecturer: Paul Gareau
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Days: Monday, January 11th – February 22nd (6 weeks, no class on February 15th)
Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Room 124, Leeds House Building

Lecture Series Description:
Religion has played an important yet tenuous role in shaping Canadian identity. This course seeks to highlight the influence of religion by focusing on different religious perspectives and their interactions in our everyday life. Each seminar will focus in on the following perspectives: 1) European religious foundations; 2) the religious and spiritual ways of Indigenous Peoples; and 3) the impact of religious multicultural diversity. By the end of this course, you will be able apply your learning to the social world around you, leading to a more informed and critical understanding of the role of religion in constructing Canadian identity.

Schedule of topics:

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION**

*The Religious Experience of English Canada*
This unit will focus on the role religion played in British colonization and subsequent governance, the diverse Protestant social landscape, the historical and current socio-political climate, from liberal to conservative perspectives.

*Unit Readings:*

*Reading:* Choquette, Robert. *Chapter 9: Revivals in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries*, pp.159-170.

**WEEK 2: The Religious Experience of French Canada**
This unit will look at the historical relevance of Catholicism in particular focusing on the role religion took in colonization through missionary work, the social importance of ultramontanist conceptions of French Canadian identity, and the contemporary shift of French Canadians towards secularization.

*Unit Readings:*


**WEEK 3: Indigenous Perspectives and Experiences**

*Did you know?* Your registration in the LinR program allows you to borrow materials from Carleton University’s MacOdrum Library. To receive a temporary borrowing card, visit the circulation desk and identify yourself as a participant of LinR.
This unit will outline the diversity and uniqueness of indigenous worldview(s) through an exposition of the interconnectedness of both material and cosmological perceptions. This discussion will help to understand indigenous perspectives in the colonial encounter with European socio-religious worldview, provide a focus on indigenous agency, and recognize the current saliency of indigenous religious and spiritual perspectives to Canadian identity.

**Unit Readings:**

Reading: Choquette, Robert. Chapter 4: The Encounter between Amerindians and Europeans, pp.51-64.


**WEEK 4: MUSLIM CANADIANS—SOCIAL AND POLITICAL REALITIES**
This unit will study the experiences of Muslim Canadians living within a historically and socially Christian nation. This unit will explore the experiences and political realities of Muslim Canadians seeking to underscore their historical experiences, social perspectives, and challenges of living in Canada.

**Unit Readings:**


**WEEK 5: ASIAN SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES IN CANADA**
This unit will outline the socio-historical influence of different Asian cultural, religious, and spiritual perspectives in Canada by underscoring the problems of defining something like Asian spiritualities under the rubric of Religion, the unique experiences of Asian peoples in Canada, and the influx of Asian religious and spiritual influence on Canadian society.

**Unit Readings:**


**WEEK 6: LIVING WITH DIVERSITY—THE SHAPE OF CANADIAN IDENTITY**
This unit will act as an exposition of the current socio-political currents on multiculturalism as a central tenet to Canadian identity. This will be done by underscoring the historical reification of multicultural values and its reflections in key elements of Canadian identity such as the Charter. This section will also look at how we define identity and the place of religion in the public sphere.

**Unit Readings:**


Course Bibliography:


