

FYSM 1611A
The Politics of Canadian Myths and Symbols

Thursday, 8:35-11:25

Loeb A602

Confirm location on Carleton Central

This class meets face to face there is no online component.

Instructor: Professor Christina Gabriel (she/her)
Office: Loeb B657
Phone: 520-2600 x. 1213
E-mail: Christina.gabriel@carleton.ca [please use e-mail to contact me]
Office Hours: Tuesday, 9:30 am to 10:30 am
Thursday, 11:35 am to 12:30 pm
or by appointment

Course Description

The social theorist Benedict Anderson famously referred to the nation as an “imagined community”. Consider the imagination required to be a member of the Canadian community where most people will never know, see or meet all of their fellow citizens. Many of them will never travel the length of the territory that defines the nation of Canada. Yet some idea of the Canadian nation exists in the mind of every citizen. It’s a nation inspired and nurtured by public signs, myths, symbols, holidays, and ceremonies. This course examines how these representations are mobilized to tell a particular story of the Canadian nation and forge an understanding of Canadian identity. It asks you to consider questions such as: How have these myths and symbols been constructed? How are they contested? Who are included or marginalized in these representations? In doing so, the course considers how relations of power are involved in forging a national identity.

Course Format

This course is an in-person seminar that meets weekly over the Fall term. There is no online component. The instructor will begin each session with a short introduction to the topic. However, as this is a seminar most of the class will be focused on class activities and discussion. Student must come to class with the readings completed and be prepared to actively participate.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this seminar students should be able to:

- Understand some key concepts in Political Science including nation, nationalism, national identity.
- Comprehend the contested nature of these concepts in state policy and materials, everyday life, public art and culture.
- Develop and strengthen key academic abilities including critical reading skills, academic writing and citing scholarly texts.
- Effectively communicate their ideas clearly through in-class discussion and small group work.
- Develop their ability to independently conduct research on a topic and present their work both through written report and oral presentation.

Texts

No course materials are required to be purchased for this seminar. All readings are available on the course Brightspace page. Materials are both from academic sources and grey literature.

Evaluation at a Glance (Specific Details on Brightspace)

Assignment	Due Date	Value
Participation & Attendance in Seminar	Ongoing	10%
1.A Written Assignment (Context for Report)	September 25	10%
1.B Written Assignment (Selection & Photograph of Statue for Report)	October 9	10%
Mid-Term Test (In-class, Short Answer & Essay)	October 16	15%
1.C Final Written Report	November 20	15%
1.D Individual Oral Presentation of Report and Q & A	Week of December 1-4	10%
Cumulative Final Exam (Short Answer and Essay)*	Scheduled Exam Period	30%

*The final exam for this course is in-person and scheduled during the official exam period December 8 to December 20 inclusive. Exams will occur on campus outside of regular class time (which can include Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday). Please do not make any travel plans until you review the exam schedule.

Policies on Assignments:

All assignments in this course must be 12 pt. font, double-spaced and have standard one-inch margins. As much as possible they should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations (endnotes or footnotes) and a bibliography. Please review details on each assignment carefully.

All assignments are due through Brightspace on the due date specified before 11 p.m.

Please make every effort to back-up your work regularly, retain a copy of your submitted work and all rough notes, drafts etc., until your submitted work is returned to you.

Late Penalties

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of **2%** a day including weekends. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after scheduled due date.

Extensions

Exceptions to the posted due date will only be made in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement). If you anticipate a problem with one of the above deadlines, you need to approach the instructor as soon as you can in advance of the assignment. Appeals for extensions that come after the due date will generally not be considered.

Use of AI in this Course

Students may use AI tools for basic word processing and formatting functions, including:

- Grammar and spell checking (e.g., Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor)
- Basic formatting and design suggestions (e.g., Microsoft Word's formatting tools, PowerPoint Design editor)

It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above. If you have questions about a specific use of AI that isn't listed above, please consult the instructor.

This policy ensures that student voices and ideas are prioritized and authentically represented, maintaining the integrity of the work produced by students while allowing basic support to enhance clarity, correctness, layout, and flow of ideas. The goal of adopting a limited use of AI is to help students develop foundational skills in writing and critical thinking by practicing substantive content creation without the support of AI.

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course

Plagiarism

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as ‘presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.’ This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.”

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor.

The Associate Dean of the Faculty of Public and Global Affairs follows a rigorous process for academic integrity allegations, including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Additionally, in this course it is **not** acceptable to submit an assignment/essay (or part of an assignment/essay) that you have produced for another course. Please consult me if you need further clarification.

Communication and E-mail Policy

Please review the course outline carefully before e-mailing the instructor.

If you have a question that needs a detailed response, please e-mail the instructor to set up an appointment. E-mail will be answered within two business days. E-mails are not checked on the weekend or outside regular work hours. Do not submit any class assignments by e-mail unless you have made an arrangement with the instructor.

Note: All email communication is to be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace, not personal emails.

Electronic Devices

Students are to refrain from using their cell phones in class. In the seminar laptops are to only be used for course-related work – consulting readings, taking notes etc.,

Schedule of Classes

Sept. 4 Introduction to Course

- Introductions
- Overview of course themes
- Review of course outline and requirements

Section I

Sept. 11 Nations, Nationalism and Myths

- Sharlee Cranston-Reimer. 2019. "Being Canada: Joe's Rant, Nationalism, Whiteness, and the Illusion of Neutrality." In Victoria Kannen and Neil Shyminsky, eds., *The Spaces and Places of Canadian Popular Culture*. 36-43.
- Tim Nieguth and Tracey Raney. 2017. "Nation Building and Canada's Symbolic Order" in *Nations and Nationalism* 23(1). 87-108.
- Paul Hamilton and Tristan Sheppard "Symbols Take Centre Stage in Debates about Canadian Nationalism" in *The Conversation*. June 30, 2025 https://theconversation.com/symbols-take-centre-stage-in-debates-about-canadian-nationalism-259847?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=bylinecopy_url_button

Sept. 18 The Story of Canada and the Role of Monuments and Statues

- Osborne, Brian S. 2001. "Landscapes, Memory, Monuments, and Commemoration: Putting Identity in Its Place." *Canadian Ethnic Studies* 33 (3): 33-77.
- Boswell, Randy. 2020. "It's high time we take on the monument debate in a Canadian way" in *iPolitics* <https://www.ipolitics.ca/2020/09/02/its-high-time-we-take-on-the-monument-debate-the-canadian-way/>

Recommended:

- Weeks, E., 2019 'Memorializing an Ideal: Representations of Inclusivity in Canada's National Public Monuments.' *London Journal of Canadian Studies*. 34(7), pp. 123–148. D OI: <https://doi.org/10.14324/111.444.ljcs.2019v34.007>

Sept. 25 National Landscapes and Representations

- Andrea Ruehlicke. 2019. "This Beautiful Land We Can all Call Home": The Amazing Race Canada and the Maintenance of National Myths." In Victoria Kannen and Neil Shyminsky, eds., *The Spaces and Places of Canadian Popular Culture*. 124-133.
- Donald Wright. 2018. "North." In Michael Dawson, Catherine Gibney and Donald Wright. *Symbols of Canada* pp. 41-51
- Gregor Sharpe. 2021. "What Does it Mean to be 'True north strong and free?' Canada's Elusive Northern Identity" In *The Conversation* https://theconversation.com/what-does-it-mean-to-be-true-north-strong-and-free-canadas-elusive-northern-identity-166541?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=bylinecopy_url_button

Assignment 1.A Due

Section II

Oct. 2 Animals and National Symbols

- Colin M. Coates. 2018. "The Beaver" In Michael Dawson, Catherine Gibney and Donald Wright. *Symbols of Canada* pp. 8 - 17
- Jintao Zhu and Gregor Illsinger. 2023. "Political Animals in the Modern World: An Investigation of the National Animal Symbol." In *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*. 23 pp. 195-206 only

- Tristan Hooper. 2023. "Canadian Passports" *National Post*. May 11. <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/canada-passport-new-design>
- Richard Raycraft. 2023. "Canada's Passport to Show More Nature and Less History" *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-new-passport-more-nature-fewer-history-1.6838308>

Oct. 9 Canoe

- Jessica Dunkin. 2018. "Canoe" In Michael Dawson, Catherine Gibney and Donald Wright. *Symbols of Canada* pp. 41-51
- "Respectful Canoeing means Acknowledging Indigenous authority over the land" https://theconversation.com/respectful-canoeing-means-acknowledging-indigenous-authority-over-the-land-and-water-231171?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=bylinecopy_url_button

Assignment 1.B Due

Oct. 16 Mid – Term Test (In Class)

[Please note if you miss this mid-term due to exceptional circumstances a make-up test will be scheduled on November 6 upon approval of instructor]

Oct. 20 – 24 READING WEEK

Oct. 30 Identity and Canadian Cuisine

- Burkay, H., Dean, D. (2020). Tasting the Nation: Food, Identity, and Belonging in Canada. In: Meerzon, Y., Dean, D., McNeil, D. (eds) *Migration and Stereotypes in Performance and Culture. Contemporary Performance InterActions*. Palgrave-Macmillan. Pp. 141-155.
- Elizabeth L. Jewett. "Maple Syrup." In Michael Dawson, Catherine Gibney and Donald Wright. *Symbols of Canada* pp. 106-117.

Nov. 6 Sport and Nation

- Ettinger, Aaron. "Who's the 'We' in 'We the North'? The Toronto Raptors and the Limits of Multicultural Triumphalism in Canada." *Sport in Society*: 1-20. doi: 10.1080/17430437.2025.2539813.
- Tyler Shipley. 2019. "Hockey Invented Canada: Questioning the Myths of Manufactured Nationalism." Victoria Kannen and Neil Shyminsky, eds., *The Spaces and Places of Canadian Popular Culture*. 341-349.

Guest Speaker: Professor Aaron Ettinger, Department of Political Science

Nov. 13 Canadian Flag

- Richard Nimijean and Pauline Rankin. 2016. "Marketing the Maple Leaf. The Curious Case of National Flag Day of Canada." In Raymond Blake and Mathew Hayden, eds. *Celebrating Canada: Holidays, National Days, and the Crafting of Identities*. University of Toronto Press. Pp. 416-447.
- "The Canadian Flag and the Freedom Convoy" https://theconversation.com/the-canadian-flag-and-the-freedom-convoy-the-co-opting-of-canadian-symbols-176436?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=bylinecopy_url_button

Section III

Nov. 20 "A Nation of Peacekeepers"

- Scott W. See. 2018. "The Intellectual Construction of Canada's "Peaceable kingdom" Ideal." *Journal of Canadian Studies/Revue d'études canadiennes*, Volume 52, Number/numéro 2. pp. 510-537

- David Webster. 2022. “An Invader, Warrior, Peacekeeper and Arms Supplier in Conflicts Near and Far” *Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/canada-an-invader-warrior-peacekeeper-and-arms-supplier-in-conflicts-near-and-far-179645>

Assignment 1.C Due

Nov. 27 “The Special Relationship” Canada and the US

- Sara K. McGuire. 2024. “The 49th Parallel: Balancing Cooperation with Sovereignty.” In Don Abelson and Stephen Brooks, eds., *History Made Us Friends, Reassessing the Special Relationship Between Canada and the US*. Montreal-Kingston: McGill-Queens. Pp. 298-322.
- Anna Triandafyllidou. 2025. “How Donald Trump’s Attacks on Canada are Stoking a New Type of Nationalism.” *The Conversation*. Feb. 4. <https://theconversation.com/how-donald-trumps-attacks-on-canada-are-stoking-a-new-canadian-nationalism-247958>

Students Will Sign Up for One-to-One Presentations with Professor

Dec. 4 “An Open and Tolerant Society” & Concluding Thoughts

- Mohsen Javdani. 2024.” Canada at a Crossroads: Understanding the Shifting Sands of Immigration Attitudes” *Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/canada-at-a-crossroads-understanding-the-shifting-sands-of-immigration-attitudes-232579>

FINAL EXAM IN SCHEDULED EXAM PERIOD

Political Science Course Outline Appendix

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

<https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>

Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC):
<https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS):
<https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>

Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991,
<http://www.crisisline.ca/>

Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389,
<https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>

ood2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating

circumstances: Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University.

Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

Pregnancy: Contact your Instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at equity@carleton.ca or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

Religious obligation: Contact your Instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's official withdrawal dates

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's Official Exam Period (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*"

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777)	B640 Loeb
Registrar's Office (3500)	300 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 th floor Library
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501 Nideyinàn
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include: