Carleton University
Department of Political Science

PSCI 5410
Postcolonial Theories and Practices
2:35 a.m. – 5:25 p.m. Monday
Please confirm location on Carleton Central
This seminar acknowledges that it meets on unceded Algonquin territory.

Instructor: Cristina Rojas
Office: Loeb D 698
Office Hours: Monday 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. and Friday 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.
Phone: 613 5202600 x 3131
Email: cristina_rojas@carleton.ca

Course description

This seminar seeks to familiarize students with different approaches to postcolonial theory. Special attention is given to perspectives coming from indigenous peoples across the hemisphere. The seminar is organized thematically around the effects of colonialism over the knowledges, history, legal system and bodies of the colonized. Equally important is the focus on the intersection of coloniality with capitalism, science, security, sexual and racial inequalities, as well as the colonization of global imaginaries. The seminar starts with a reflection on modernity’s pretension of universality and will end with an examination of decolonizing practices.

Seminar Requirements

• **Attend all seminar meetings, being prepared to discuss the reading for that week.** This is a reading-intensive seminar, and keeping up is an absolute requirement. Always bring the texts, and your notes on the text(s), to the meeting.

• **Read through and consider your peers' papers before the seminar meets.** Come to each seminar with at least two prepared questions for each presenter every week.

• **Response papers and seminar presentations: Once** during the semester, you will prepare a short seminar paper on the readings for that week. **Your paper should demonstrate familiarity with at least one of the texts from the 'suggested' reading list as well as the required texts for the week.** Please distribute copies of your paper to the seminar via email by 5pm on the Thursday preceding the seminar meeting, and be prepared to talk about it with the seminar.

A seminar paper in this context is a concise (~2,500 words) and well-written set of thoughtful reflections that demonstrates a rich understanding of the reading material. It is neither a summary of readings nor a "book report" on the text. It may be focused narrowly on a particular theoretical point, a concept or it may be an exploratory paper that applies the theory to a subject that interests you. I will provide examples the first week of class.

The paper will be chosen in advance according to the class schedule. On the occasion of your scheduled paper, you will draw from your paper (and other background reading as necessary) to make a ~10 min. presentation to the seminar on the week's text(s).
• Final essay:

At the end of the seminar, you will be required to write an essay of approximately 3500 words (if you are MA student) and 5000 words (for PhD students) that must deal with some aspect of the theoretical debates examined in this course. This does not mean that you must pick one of the topics identified in the course outline; in fact, I would encourage you to use the opportunity to begin to formulate the research question you hope to explore in your MA thesis or research essay. The essay is graded in two parts: the outline is due on February 23, is worth 10%. The final paper is due on April 6th worth 40% of your final grade.

Assessment:

• Seminar paper 35% (30% written paper + 5% presentation)
• Participation 15% (general contribution to the seminar)
• Final paper 50% (outline 10%; final paper 40%)

Late Work:

Late work will not be accepted except in extraordinary circumstances (and must be cleared with the professor at least one week in advance).

** There can be no rescheduling of presentation. Please plan accordingly. **

Paper standards: Seminar papers should be typed, proofread, and written in a standard font. They should also be consistent in their use of a citation method. Proper in-text or footnoted citations of the texts are important, but a bibliography is not required, except when other sources beyond required and suggested texts are used.

Academic honesty: Please see the end of the course outline for the University’s policies about plagiarism.

Class Schedule:

Class 1 January 5 Modernity


Recommended Readings:


Class 2 January 12 History


Recommended reading:


Class 3 January 19 Knowledge


Recommended Readings:


Class 4 January 26 Coloniality of Being


Recommended readings:

Schiwy, Freda. 2007. Decolonization and the Question of Identity. Gender, Race and Binary Thinking, Cultural Studies Vol. 21, Nos. 2 and 3, pp. 271-294
Class 5 February 2 Development


Recommended Readings:


Class 6 February 9 Capitalism


Recommended Readings


February 16 No class (reading week)

Class 7 February 23 Science


Recommended readings:

Class 8 March 2 Women


Additional readings


Class 9 March 9 Law


Recommended readings:


Class 10 March 16 Security-Sovereignty


Recommended Readings


**Class 11 March 23 Decolonizing Practices:**


Recommended Readings:


**Class 12 March 30 Decolonizing Politics**


Recommended Readings:


**Class 13 April 6 Presentation of Papers**
Academic Accommodations

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, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation 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). 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).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

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:

- 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;
- 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;
hanging 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 which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor.
The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the
course.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor
according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the
departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside
B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's
date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a
stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail.
Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of
the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of
grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject
to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be
subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
**Carleton E-mail Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.