

Carleton University
School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies

Studying Canada
CDNS 1001, Summer 2020
(Online)
May 4 – June 16, 2020

Instructor: Tim Browne

Teaching assistants: TBA

This online, asynchronous course introduces students to Canadian Studies as an intellectual movement, beginning with its origins in the 1960s and continuing with current developments in the field. Instead of promoting a nationalistic study of Canada and attending to ways to keep the country united, contemporary Canadian Studies is aimed at understanding difference in Canadian society and examines such things as the way in which the state includes and excludes certain groups, the role of popular culture in articulating Canadian identity, the history and current concerns of Indigenous peoples, and whether or not “the nation” is a concept that even applies anymore.

A core question that Canadian Studies asks is: what drives people to come together as a national community? Is it a shared language, history, or ethnic background? Is it a set of symbols or narratives? Is it the rights and responsibilities that being part of a nation entails? Is it the political boundaries, or the country’s physical landmass? Is the nation state simply an artificial construct? This course attempts to make sense of these questions by examining some of the ways that identity is produced and maintained in Canada.

Evaluation:

Midterm Assignment	(questions to answer in paragraph form and essay topic)	25%
Selling Canada Paper	(about 1500 words)	25%
Participation	(online forums and topical questions for each class)	20%
Take-Home Final Exam		30%