

Course	CDNS 2300 Critical Nationalism
Instructor	Paul Litt
Term	Fall 2020
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Office Location	1208 Dunton Tower
Office Hours	Online Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 pm

## COURSE DESCRIPTION / INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

This course explores Canadian nationalisms. We will look at definitions and theories that attempt to conceptualize nations and nationalism, then explore how well they apply to Canada, past and present. The fabled Canadian identity will be one topic of discussion. We'll look critically at the myths, symbols and stories that evoke it.

We'll also explore other forms of collective identity that compete with Canadian nationalism for legitimacy within Canada (such as French-Canadian nationalism) and ask similar questions about them. The concept of race and its relationship to nationality is another major issue, but there are a host of others. Where do First Nations fit into the picture? Can a country that is multicultural achieve national unity? Is it possible to build a nation on civic values alone?

Nationalism is a strange beast; nationalism in Canada even stranger. This course will challenge your assumptions about nations and about Canada and give you the ability to think critically about them in your university studies.

*CDNS2300 will be online in a blended format with weekly segments delivering the course material through screen-casting, class activities, assigned texts, discussion groups, short feedback assignments, and web conferencing.*

## EVALUATION

The exact mix of assignments has yet to be finalized, but there are two streams of evaluation.

1. Essay Proposal, research blog, and research essay:

Your own research project in which you will explore a particular aspect of Canadian nationalism in depth will be the basis for much of your final mark. You will choose a topic for a research essay, write an essay proposal, blog about it on the class website, and submit the essay in the last week of class.

2. Class Participation, Activity Responses, and Final Exam

The balance of your final mark will be based on your general performance in the course. You will be evaluated on your appreciation of the course material as displayed through your participation in group discussion, your weekly responses to assigned activities and a final exam.

## TEXT

There is no textbook for this class. Instead, short texts are assigned weekly.