

Course	CDNS 5003 Decolonizing the City
Instructor	Julie Tomiak
Term	Fall 2020
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Office Location	1201 Dunton Tower
Office Hours	Zoom meeting by email appointment

## Online course format: Synchronous

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cities in what is now known as Canada are on Indigenous land and are places where Indigenous people live in vibrant, diverse and growing communities that challenge settler colonial common sense. Yet, the relationship between colonization and urbanization often remains invisible in public discourse, policy and scholarship. This course problematizes settler colonial urbanism/s and highlights the continued presence and vibrancy of Indigenous life in cities. Drawing on scholarship in and across a number of disciplines, most importantly in critical Indigenous studies, the course examines the production of urban space and the complexities of decolonization in a range of empirical contexts. The course readings contest colonial boundaries and mappings by stressing the importance of connections among people, places and practices across urban and non-urban geographies. Students will engage with theoretical approaches that foreground Indigenous resurgence and resistance to dispossession and erasure and give attention to the ongoing violence of settler state power, white supremacy, heteropatriarchy and racial capitalism. Framing cities as Indigenous places and as deeply contested spaces, the course invites students to understand the urban as a key site of decolonization.

### EVALUATION

**Participation (35%):** Students are expected to engage closely with the assigned readings every week and contribute actively and consistently to discussion.

**3 seminar papers (45% - 15% each):** Students are asked to write three seminar papers, each responding to one set of the weekly readings. A seminar paper (2,000 words) should demonstrate close and critical engagement with some of the key concepts, themes, arguments and theoretical contributions of the readings. Rather than summarizing them, students should illustrate how the readings have enriched their understanding of what it means to decolonize cities. A seminar paper is due two full days before the class in which the readings are discussed. Students will also circulate their papers to their colleagues two days before class. At least one paper must focus on a set of readings from the first half of the course, and at least one paper must focus on a set of readings from the second half of the course.

**2 presentations (20% - 10% each):** Each student is responsible for presenting one set of assigned readings from the first half of the course and one set of readings from the second half of the course. Each presentation (30 minutes) should contextualize the readings, identify key concepts, arguments, theoretical and political contributions, put the readings in conversation with each other, and generate questions for discussion. An electronic sign-up sheet will be available after the first class.