Carleton University Department of Sociology and Anthropology

ANTH 5210 (0.5 credit)
Fall 2017

Special Topics in Indigenous Studies: DECOLONIZING THE ANTHROPOCENE

Instructor: Dr. Zoe Todd
E-mail: ZoeS.Todd@carleton.ca
Class location: LA A700
Class time: 11:35-2:25 PM, Wednesdays
Office location: Loeb D797
Office Ph. No: 613-520-2600 x 4007
Office Hours:

- physical office hours by appointment (contact me by e-mail to arrange a meeting)
- Virtual office hours on CuLearn (BigBlueButton): Tuesdays 9-10 AM

Lecture three hours a week.

Course developed by: Dr. Zoe Todd, Assistant Professor, Carleton University, Ottawa,
ASSIGNMENTS

- **Reading analysis 1**: critical, comparative analysis of readings {September 13-20 inclusive} (3000 words) **(15%)** (due at beginning of class on September 20)
  - students will be expected to reflect on readings completed up to this point in class. Assignment expectations will be further outlined in class.

- **Reading analysis 2**: (3000 words) critical, comparative reflection on readings {September 27-October 11 inclusive} **(15%)** (due at beginning of class on October 11)
  - students will be expected to reflect on readings completed between September 27 and October 11. Assignment expectations will be further outlined in class.

- **Presentation/guided discussion**: 
  **(20%)** (scheduled throughout term)
  - Each student shall lead class discussion once through the term:
  - Students will be asked to read the texts assigned for the week, summarize the material for the class and prepare a series of questions to lead class discussion
  - Assignment expectations (timelines, rubric) will be further outlined in class

- **Final Essay (Journal Article Practice Peer Review)**: TWO PARTS
  - Final essay proposal **(15%)** (due November 1):
    - Identify a journal article you plan to review
    - Provide website, journal mission statement
    - Outline topic of the article, provide an abstract of the article in your own words, and briefly outline the aim of the piece and why you chose to review this particular piece
  - **(Journal article review)**: (due at the beginning of class on 06 December): a final practice peer review (in a modified essay form)
    - Explain whether you would have accepted the piece for publication, and provide rationale for this decision
    - Emphasis on identifying areas of strength and ‘areas for growth’ in the article’s arguments—explain how this piece does or does not fit into and push/expand the horizons of existing literature
  - (Total assignment should be 6000-7000 words) **(35%)**

I. Course Description and Objectives:
**Decolonizing the Anthropocene**: This course explores diverse narratives of the Anthropocene epoch, interrogating the scientific work of defining and situating this era of anthropogenic change of the Earth System. Critical discourses from anthropology, Indigenous Studies, STS, Afroturism, geography and philosophy will be examined to complicate understandings of the Anthropocene.

The aim of the course is to encourage students to be able to, in writing and in oral presentation work:
  a) identify contemporary discourses of the Anthropocene as they are addressed within the North American (socio-cultural) anthropological, STS, Indigenous Studies, geology, and Earth Systems science canon
  b) identify local environmental issues—as they relate to the Anthropocene narrative-- in the unceded Algonquin Territory the class takes place in
  c) analyze popular media and academic narratives of human-environmental issues relating to the Anthropocene

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d) apply a decolonial lens to contemporary popular and academic discourses of the Anthropocene

e) apply critical anthropological discourses to understanding a) relationships between humans and their environment and b) how these relationships are shaped by, and understood through, dynamic and diverse socio-cultural factors/lenses throughout the world

f) develop and apply critical analytical skills in reviewing current scholarship on the Anthropocene

II. Course Policies

Communications:
If you have questions about class readings and assignments, you can reach me by email at ZoeS.Todd@carleton.ca, through the e-mail function in CuLearn, or by contacting me during office hours (which are noted above). I will try to answer all correspondence within 48 hours. I read and respond to emails between 9 AM to 5 PM on weekdays, and I do not check or answer e-mails on the weekend.

(Do not contact Zoe.Todd@carleton.ca as this address belongs to a different person and your e-mails will not reach me)

For submission of assignments, please use the email function in CuLearn to submit electronic copies of course materials to me (in addition to the hard copies you will submit in class). I will send out correspondence to the class (re: assignments, readings) through CuLearn. I strongly recommend that students use CuLearn email for course correspondence with me and your fellow classmates—this will ensure that if something does not get through to me, there is a record of your correspondence saved in CuLearn.

Class Conduct:
The materials covered in this course will engage a range of complex topics. It is important that these issues be addressed collectively within the class in a sensitive, respectful and accountable manner.

Assignment Submission:
Course assignments shall be submitted to me in hard copy (CD, DVD, USB key for the multimedia podcast; in paper for the final essay) in class on the date it is due, AND you must submit an electronic copy of all assignments through email at ZoeS.Todd@carleton.ca (if file is too large to upload to the email, then you may use email me a link to your assignment sent via a file transfer program such as WeTransfer.com or Dropbox). Please retain a copy of all assignments—if one of your assignments is not received by me because it is lost, misplaced or otherwise goes missing, you will be responsible for submitting a backup copy immediately upon request. Do not submit assignments under my door. Quizzes and other in-course assignments will be returned in class, and assessments will also be returned in class. Final assignments (essay) will be available for pick up from my office once they are marked.

Please get in touch with me ahead of deadlines if you have a deadline conflict or an emergency arises to discuss alternative arrangements.

There is a 5% penalty for each day that an assignment is late.
III. Texts:

Required Texts:


These books are available for order via Amazon.

*Recommended text:*

   - (this book is available for free by downloading it from: http://openhumanitiespress.org/books/download/Davis-Turpin_2015_Art-in-the-Anthropocene.pdf)

   --a copy of the required textbooks (Tsing and Sharpe’s texts) have been placed on reserve at MacOdrum Library

   --other course readings (articles) will be made available electronically through CuLearn (we will go over how to access these on the first day of class)

IV. Course calendar:

Class Schedule:

**September 6 – Introduction to the course, ‘what is the Anthropocene?’**

- Discussion of syllabus and expectations
- Viewing of the documentary *Manufactured Landscapes* (http://www.edwardburtynsky.com/site_contents/Films/Manufactured_Landscapes_Film.html)

**September 13 – The Anthropocene as Fact**

Readings to be done before class:

- *Mushroom at the End of the World*—Part I: “What’s Left?” (pp. 1-54)

**September 20 –The Anthropocene as Construct**

**READING REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**

- *Mushroom at the End of the World*—Part II “After Progress: Salvage Accumulation” (pp. 55-100)

**September 27 – Decolonizing the Anthropocene**
• *Mushroom at the End of the World*—Part II “After Progress: Salvage Accumulation” (pp. 101-148)
• Joseph, Etienne, Bell, Connie, Francis, Wayne and Nadeem Din-Gabisi. 2015. [website]. *Decolonising the Archive*: http://www.decolonisingtherearchive.com/people/

**October 4 – More-than-human relations I**
• *Mushroom at the End of the World*—Part III, “Disturbed Beginnings: Unintentional Design” (pp. 149-200)

**October 11 – More-than-human relations II**
**READING REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**

**October 18 – Posthumanism, Race and the Anthropocene**
• *Mushroom at the End of the World*, Part IV, “In the Middle of Things” (pp. 251-288)
• Kanngeiser, Anja and Angela Last. 2016. Five Propositions | Critiques for the

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October 25 – Fall break

November 1 – Human-geologic relations

PART 1 OF PEER REVIEW ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS

- *In The Wake: Chapter 1: The Wake (pp.1-24)*

November 8 – Relationships and relationality in the Anthropocene

- *In the Wake*, Chapter 2: The Ship (pp.25-67)

November 15 – Decolonizing Nature II: gender and environment

- *In the Wake*, Chapter 3: The Hold (pp. 68-101)

November 22 – Responding to the Anthropocene: Indigenous Futurities1

- *In the Wake*, Chapter 4: The Weather (pp. 102-134)

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November 29 – Responding to the Anthropocene: Indigenous Futurities II

- **Cantave, Danielle, Mir, Fizza, Howard, Lauren Howard, and Sefanit Habtom.** The Henceforward podcast, Episode 1 “Give it Back” http://www.thehenceforward.com/episodes/2016/7/8/episode-1-give-it-back

December 6 – Last class

**Final Assignments Due at beginning of class.**

**Film viewing**

**V. Evaluation:**
For all assignments, citation and style guide is up to the student (ie: you may choose from APA, MLA, or Chicago) but pick one style and stick with it. Carleton Library has excellent resources on style guides here: https://www.library.carleton.ca/help/citing-your-sources

I strongly recommend taking advantage of writing tutorial services offered by the library: https://carleton.ca/csas/writingservices/

**Grading rubric:**
From the University Calendar: http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadreg

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grade points indicated above are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

The following percentage equivalents apply to all final grades at Carleton:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Other grades and notations in current use by the university are as follows:

F Failure. The grade of F is assigned when the student has failed to meet the conditions of “satisfactory performance” defined in the Course Outline. F carries 0.0 grade points."

"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.

VI. Statement on Plagiarism

PLAGIARISM
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally 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;
- 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 which cannot be resolved directly with 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.

VII. Requests for Academic Accommodations

"Academic Accommodation

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

**Pregnancy obligation**: 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. For more details see the Student Guide (http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Religious obligation**: 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. For more details see the Student Guide (http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**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, contact your PMC coordinator to send 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). The deadline for contacting the PMC regarding accommodation for final exams for the Fall exam period is November 10, 2017.