

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH/ SOCI 4730
WINTER 2026
COLONIALISM AND POST-COLONIALISM

Instructor: Carieta Thomas

Office Hours: Wednesdays at 12:00pm to 1:00pm or by appointment via Zoom

Email: CarietaThomas@cunet.carleton.ca

Brightspace course page link: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/372893>

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: Fourth-year standing

Method of Delivery: In-person on Mondays at 11:35am to 2:25pm

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will explore the differences and similarities in colonial formations and modes of rule globally, both as an historical phenomenon and an ongoing process. The course will examine the lasting impacts of colonial and post-colonial rule on nation-building and social organization, including the institutionalization of racism, missionization, Eurocentrism, and other mechanisms of exploitation, silencing, and erasure. Additionally, the course will cover various responses to colonialism, including debates surrounding violence as a tool of resistance and decolonization. The course does not have a temporal or geographic focus. Instead, the readings cover various former colonies and look at different social phenomena. Similarly, many of our readings were

written by scholars who were themselves colonial subjects, whereas others were written by scholars from countries that colonized large parts of the world. In the course, students are encouraged to consider and compare these different views.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe the differences and similarities in colonial formations and modes of rule globally, both as a historical phenomenon and an ongoing process.
- Identify the critical roles of colonial histories in shaping contemporary social, political, and economic developments across the globe.
- Explain the lasting impacts of colonial and post-colonial rule on nation-building and social organization.
- Understand the post-colonial critique in sociology of colonialism and reposition vision of global modernity.
- Explain a range of critical disciplinary and interdisciplinary debates and theories regarding colonialism and post-colonialism.
- Demonstrate critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills by engaging in discussions, debates, reflections, writing assignments, and research.

READING(S)/TEXTBOOK(S)

Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course. Required readings will be listed in the course outline under the reading schedule and embedded in Brightspace.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION

Assessment of learning outcomes will take place through a variety of methods. Below are the assessment components, required assignments, and the percent value of each assignment for determining your course grade.

Assessment Component/Assignment	Due Date	Weight
Participation	Ongoing	10%
Structured Reading Group Submissions	January 26 th at 11:59pm February 9 th at 11:59pm March 2 nd at 11:59pm March 30 th at 11:59pm	40% (4 at 10% each)
Research Paper Topic & Thesis	February 27 th at 11:59pm	5%
Film Analysis	March 20 th at 11:59pm	15%
Final Research Paper	April 8 th at 11:59pm	30%