

Class time: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 pm (+ 1 hour asynchronous)

Classroom: B&GS 1056

Instructor: Dr. Randa Farah

Office: SSC 3423

Email: rfarah2@uwo.ca

Office Hours: TBA

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Antirequisites: none.

Prerequisites: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course and registration in third year or higher in any program.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

The brutal murder of 46-year-old George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020 ignited large street protests and a growing anti-racism movement- "Black Lives Matter." Similar protests spread in many countries around the world and were accompanied by the toppling or attempts to tear down monuments and statues long considered national "heroes," and/or calls to change names of institutions, such as Ryerson University in Canada. For African Americans and indigenous populations in particular, they remember the "national heroes" as the criminals who supported the slave trade, robbed indigenous people of their lands and livelihoods, and tore families and communities apart violently or by deception. In this class, we examine the ongoing battle over the past as inextricably linked to questions of collective identity, and conflicts over territorial sovereignty. The dismantling of the Soviet Union in the latter part of the 20th century, along with Yugoslavia and other countries resulted in the formation of even smaller nation-states all claiming they have the "right to self-determination." This process led to new "national" fortresses of exclusion and inclusion, which required rewriting the past to justify claims to political independence. Yet, there are other forms of identification that are beyond the "nation" such as Buddhism, Islam, or they are at the subnational such as identification with a tribe, village, or region. Often, these other scales of belonging coexist peacefully with the "nation", other times they pose serious challenges to existing states. This class is based on a combination of conceptual writings and case studies that exemplify the link between power, historical reproduction, the formation of identities, and the struggle over borders and territories.

Please note that I might introduce some videos for you to watch. The final draft of this outline will be available on the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze history, territory and identity as interrelated concepts.
- Identify theories and definitions pertaining to nations and nationalism, as a compelling but historical form of collective identity.
- Distinguish national belonging from other forms of collective identities.
- Apply the concept “differentiated citizenship” to real case studies.
- Analyze territorial markers and how they inform and shape social and cultural boundaries.
- Apply scholarly approaches to analyze imperial and colonial powers as political and economic formations that re-map territories and reconfigure societies and cultures.
- Analyze historical narratives as inseparable from the exercise of power.
- Distinguish among forms of historical reproduction, especially official/professional history and popular memory.
- Analyze how identity-making and history-making are entwined.
- Grasp the complexities of history, territory and identity in a number of cases.

Course Materials

Students will access readings through OWL’s Course Reading feature before first day of class.

Assignments, Dates and Weights

Assignment	Weight/Percentage	Date
a. Participation	10%	TBA
b. Short test	15%	TBA
c. Short paper	15%	TBA
d. Exam	30 %	TBA
e. Essay	30%	TBA
Total	100%	