

**Department of Anthropology**  
**ANTH 3305A-001**  
**History, Territory and the Politics of Identity**  
**PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Fall 2023**

*Version date: August 29, 2023*



*Figure 1. The head of a statue of Christopher Columbus was pulled off amid protests against racial inequality in Boston on June 10, 2020. [Source](#)*



*Figure 2. A statue of Christopher Columbus lies facedown after being toppled by protesters on the grounds of the state capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota, on June 10, 2020. [Source](#)*



*Figure 3. George Floyd's image is projected on the Robert E. Lee Monument in Richmond, Virginia, on June 18, 2020. Virginia Governor Ralph Northam has ordered the removal of the statue, but next steps have been delayed by pending lawsuits. [Source](#)*

**Instructor and course information:**

Instructor: Dr. Randa Farah

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Credit Value: 0.5

Antirequisites: The former 3305F/G.

Prerequisites: Registration in third year or above.

**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". But for African-Americans and indigenous populations in particular, many of the "national heroes" were 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 contestation over the past, and how dominant narratives pervade the public sphere but are always challenged by alternative or oppositional versions of the past. We focus on the production of history including those produced in contestations over territorial sovereignty, as well as narratives that contest colonial histories of dispossession and slavery. We also briefly examine the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia as a case study to show how the formation of smaller nation-states has led to new "national" fortresses of inclusion and exclusion. In this process, the past was reinvented to make new claims to the right to territorial secession. This class draws on case studies and scholarly literature that illustrate the link between power, historical reproduction, the formation of identities, and the struggle over borders and territories.

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Analyze the dismantling of monuments as a form of resistance to dislodge dominant histories, especially colonial narratives.
- Identify theories and definitions pertaining to nations and nationalism, as a compelling but historical form of collective identity.
- Analyze historical reproduction, contestation over territories, and identity claims as interrelated concepts.
- Analyze territorial markers and how they inform political and social identities and vice versa.
- 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, especially in colonial cases.

## Course Materials:

Readings will become available on Owl (Course Readings) on the first day of class.

## Evaluation:

First Short Test	10%	Oct 11
First Reflection Paper	15%	Oct 25 (2-3 pages)
Second Short Test	15%	Nov 22
Second Reflection Paper	15%	Nov 29 (2-3 pages)
Group presentations:	15%	(in lieu of may choose a paper) Weeks 6,9, 10.
Final exam	30%	(December 10-22)

### **Short Tests 10% + 15% = 25%**

There will be two in-class short tests that will cover the lectures, readings, and documentaries.

The first, October 11<sup>th</sup>, will cover materials from the beginning of the term to week 4 (inclusive of material covered in week 4).

The second, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, will cover lectures, readings, and documentaries from week 5 to week 10 (inclusive of week 10). No make-ups will be permitted for missed tests, except in cases where academic accommodation has been granted. The format will be mixed: multiple choice, true and false, definitions and short answers. Presentations are **not** on the tests of the exam.

### **Reflection Papers – 15% x 2 = 30% to be submitted on OWL (Assignments)**

The number of pages for each paper is 3-4 pages or 750-1000 words (1000 words is the maximum) double-spaced pages (Times New Roman 12). Use three scholarly references for each.

The short papers should be submitted online using the Assignment tab on Owl. More details will be provided on the first day of class.

**For the first reflection paper due October 25**, choose a monument or name of an institution in Canada that has been contested because it represents a settler-colonial narrative, (for example a figure involved in uprooting or abusing indigenous peoples, and/or racism). Argue why or why not this monument or name should be removed, replaced, or maintained.

**The second reflection paper, due November 29**, will be about an **ongoing conflict in Africa**. In your paper, argue how **the colonial history weighs on the present** igniting conflicts over lands and entrenching identity politics. The number of pages is 3-4 or 750-1000 words (1000 words is the maximum) double-spaced pages (Times New Roman 12). More details will be provided on the first day of class.

All required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

### **Group Presentations – 15%**

Three or four students will present on a territorial conflict not covered in class. Individual students may opt for a reflection paper in lieu of participating in a group. The duration of the presentation will be half an hour, followed by a 15-minute class discussion. To encourage discussion, the group is required to prepare one to two questions related to their presentation. Each student in the group will submit to the instructor a brief outline of their contribution to the group, such as which literature they looked at, whether they participated in preparing the PowerPoint, and the main ideas that they learned from their research. These individual written outlines should not exceed one double-spaced page and may be in point form. The complete PowerPoint presentation and the text should be submitted to the instructor on the day of the presentation. More details will be discussed in class and made available on the course OWL site.

### **Final Exam – 30%**

The final exam (two hours) will cover all lectures, readings, and documentaries covered during the term that is from week 1 to the last class. Group presentations are **NOT** included in the final exam. The format will be mixed and may include: multiple choice, true and false, definitions, and short and long answers.

### **Late Policy for Assignments**

There will be a 3% reduction of the assignment grade for each day that an assignment is late (including weekends and holidays). Unless accommodation is granted, assignments that are not handed in within 7 days of the due date (including weekends and holidays) may receive a grade of zero.

## **Academic Statements and Policies:**

### **Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism:**

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

### **Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course:**

In order to pass this course students must complete the final exam.

### **Use of OWL**

Western's online course management program, will be used for providing the final course outline using the Syllabus page, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page) and communicating with the class (using the Announcements tool). Pdf copies of Powerpoint presentations will be made available on OWL. All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

### **Academic Consideration for Student Absences:**

For students who have missed, or will miss, any course work, whether it be for medical related or non-medical related, please read the details and instructions on "[What is Academic Consideration](#)".

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

All missed work must be made up by the end of the exam period in the applicable term.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

**Academic Rights and Responsibilities**

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) policies in the Academic Calendar. Such items include accommodations for students with disabilities, religious holidays, consideration for medical illness, academic appeals, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and code of student conduct.

**Weekly Topics and Readings:**

Weekly topics and readings will be provided by the first day of class.

~ End ~