



Course Name

GNDS/BLCK 280: Black and Indigenous Solidarity Work

Contact Hours

Lecture: Mondays 11:30-2:30 pm

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the study of Black and Indigenous women's historical and contemporary entangled geographies of gendered colonial violence and resistance. Taking settler colonialism and racial capitalism on Turtle Island/North America as our central case study, we will investigate the geographies of slavery and settler colonization. We will explore Black and Indigenous women's ongoing resistance to and refusal of the logics of settler violence and the afterlives of slavery, as we envision building Black and Indigenous futurity.

Required Course Materials

 All readings are available through the library's e-reserve.

Course Objectives

- To deepen understanding of the world of Indigenous peoples' social organization, distinctive cultures, world views and belief systems before colonial invasion.
- To develop a better understanding of the ways slavery and settler colonialism have shaped the history and present circumstances of Black and Indigenous women.
- To explore the ongoing contest for land, a struggle that continues to disproportionately perpetuate violence against the bodies of Indigenous women.
- To develop analytical skills that connect slavery to Black dispossession, anti-Black violence, racial subjection and contemporary violence against Black women in the Canadian context.
- To engage ideas and approaches from Indigenous and Black women's resistance to and refusal of colonial violence to envision Black and Indigenous women's futures in a world that is free of gendered violence and injustice.

Course Evaluation

- Assignment #1: 10%
- Assignment #2: 20%
- Research Proposal: 20%
- Research Essay: 40%
- Tutorial Participation: 10%



Topics in Course Outline

Introduction to Indigeneity before colonization on Turtle Island

We will examine the worlds of Indigenous peoples before settler colonialism to deepen our understanding of Indigenous peoples' relations to land including practices of law, jurisdiction and treaty making, their diverse social structures, distinctive cultures, world views and belief systems before colonial invasion.

Slavery and Settler Colonialism on Turtle Island

Slavery and settler Colonialism on Turtle Island have shaped the history and present circumstances of Black and Indigenous peoples in distinct and defining ways. We will investigate how scholars of slavery and settler colonialism theorize the relationships between dispossession and gendered violence. We will also interrogate the ways that the gendered policies of this settler colony continue to marginalize Indigenous and Black women.

Historical and Contemporary Geographies of Gendered Colonial Violence

We will examine readings on the legacy of plantations, residential schools and reservations to reflect productively on contemporary sites of gendered colonial violence, such as the prison and the shelter. Spaces that maintain patterns of physical, sexual, mental, emotional and spiritual abuse that Indigenous and Black women continue to endure.

Refusal & Resistance

We will explore the writings and creative work of Indigenous and Black resistance to colonial violence, with a focus on envisioning Black and Indigenous women's futures in a world that is free of gendered violence and injustice.