

Race and Gender on Imperial Frontiers

or, Comparative Settler Colonialisms

History 9718B - Winter 2018

Western University

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In this course we will read and discuss recent literature on the history of settler colonialism in North America alongside comparative studies of other settler societies around the globe. In the past few decades, scholars have begun to use “settler colonialism” to describe societies in which outsiders (white Europeans in most cases) invaded a place in order to settle there permanently, and used political, legal, cultural, and economic structures to transform it into their space, turning themselves into its “natives.” Unlike other kinds of imperial regimes, large numbers of women from the invading culture helped to colonize settler colonies, but they were otherwise very similar to other imperial ventures, and to varying degrees most combined the appropriation of indigenous land with resource extraction and forced labor. New gender norms and racial hierarchies arose from white settler colonial methods of taking land and extracting labor. These new relations of power and privilege had very different consequences for white settlers, displaced Indigenous people, and imported laborers. Due to time constraints, this course will focus mainly on the experiences and interactions of Indigenous peoples and invading settlers, with less time (though not importance) given to the forced migrants and enslaved people that European empires and settlers exploited.

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

weekly participation in seminar (20%)

Did you attend? Had you done the reading effectively? Were you prepared to ask questions and interact with the readings and your peers in a respectful and critical manner? Did you ask questions or make comments that drew common threads or useful comparisons across different readings (from this or any week of the course)? Did you participate meaningfully each week, or only when we read something you were interested in? Did you share your thoughts, positive or negative, or did you save “what you really think” for discussions outside of class? If you must miss a seminar meeting due to illness or a family emergency, please inform me in writing and provide any available documentation.

discussion leadership in seminar (5%)

Once during the seminar you (and possibly 1-2 others) will begin our discussion of the week’s readings with a short presentation (5-10 minutes) to the whole seminar that outlines: 1) main arguments 2) methodologies 3) sources 4) reviews of author(s)’s work and its implications for the field and 5) discussion questions. Hit each of these effectively, and you’ll earn all 5 points.

six book reviews (30%)

We will read nine monographs in this course. You must write a 500-800 word review of six of them, in the weeks assigned below for each group (groups will be assigned in the first seminar). Send each to

lshire@uwo.ca before class on the date we discuss the book. A good book review pinpoints and pithily summarizes the thesis, methods, and sources of the study; identifies the most important implications of the research findings and places them in conversation with others who agree and disagree in the field; points out any substantive omissions or problems; indicates what new questions the study has raised for future research. If you are unsure what a good book review looks like, browse the review section of your favorite academic history journal. These cannot be accepted after the seminar meets on that book (whether or not you attend), so please plan accordingly.

20 page essay (45%)

Choose a reasonably delimited question about the history of settler colonialism (anywhere in the world and at any time in history) and conduct original research into primary and secondary sources to answer it. You might choose a particular cultural artifact/event or primary source to analyze, or carve out a small piece of a larger research project to explore in this essay. You should use as many of our shared course materials as are relevant to your research question, in addition to those you find in your research. Your final draft is due on April 30, 2018 by 12 noon. It must include a title, footnotes or endnotes, and a bibliography in Chicago/Turabian (exceptions will be made for students from disciplines that use other citation styles, discuss with me please). If possible and appropriate, you are encouraged to use this to begin research for a conference paper, journal article, MA cognate, or dissertation chapter. If your seminar paper does continue into one of those venues, I will be happy to provide feedback even after the course is complete.

Course Materials (in DBW library, available at the bookstore and/or online)

- Ned Blackhawk, *Violence Over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West* (Harvard, 2006).
Harvard 978-0674027206
- Sarah Carter, *Imperial Plots: Women, Land, and the Spadework of British Colonialism on the Canadian Prairies* (U Manitoba Press, 2016) 978-0-88755-818-4
- Albert L. Hurtado, *Intimate Frontiers: Sex, Gender, and Culture in Old California* (UNM Press), 1999.
978-0826319548
- Margaret D. Jacobs, *White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia, 1880-1940* (U Nebraska Press, 2009). 978-0803235168
- Deborah Rosen, *Border Law: The First Seminole War and American Nationhood* (Harvard, 2015). 978-0674967618
- Paulette Regan, *Unsettling the Settler Within: Indian Residential Schools, Truth Telling, and Reconciliation in Canada* (UBC Press, 2010) 978-0774817783, free online
- Laurel Clark Shire, *The Threshold of Manifest Destiny: Gender and National Expansion in Florida* (Penn Press, 2016). 9780812248364
- Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule* (UC Press, 2002, 2010). 978-0520262461
- Lorenzo Veracini, *Settler Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2010). ISBN 978-0-230-28490-6

Weekly Seminar Topics and Readings

All of the readings are mandatory – but you should be reading them strategically for argument and relevant content (not reading every word, necessarily, and certainly not in order from page 1 to the end).

*readings marked with an asterisk are available on-line via Western Libraries.

** readings marked with 2 asterisks are available as .pdfs on the course OWL site.

9 Jan. Week 1 – Introductions to Settler Colonial Studies

Expectations. Assignments. How to skim/read like an academic historian.

Please read:

- **Patrick Wolfe, *Settler Colonialism and the Transformation of Anthropology* (1999), pp. 1-9.
- *Patrick Wolfe, “Land, Labor, and Difference: Elementary Structures of Race,” *The American Historical Review* 106 (2001): 866-905.
- **Daiva Stasiulis and Nira Yuval-Davis, Eds., *Unsettling Settler Societies: Articulations of Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Class* (1995), pp. 1-38
- tequila sovereign “Why ‘Settler Colonialism’ isn’t exactly right” and “More musings on why ‘settler colonialism’ doesn’t work for me” and “Reply to Wolfe and Rifkin” at <https://tequilasovereign.wordpress.com>

16 Jan. Week 2 – Post-Colonial Theory

- Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule* (UC Press, 2002, 2010).

Discussion leaders:

Groups 1 & 2

23 Jan. Week 3 – Comparative Colonial History

- Albert L. Hurtado, *Intimate Frontiers: Sex, Gender, and Culture in Old California* (UNM Press), 1999. 978-0826319548

Discussion leaders:

Group 1

30 Jan. Week 4 – Native Resistance to Empire and Settlement

- Ned Blackhawk, *Violence Over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West* (Harvard, 2006). Harvard 978-0674027206

Discussion leaders:

Groups 2

6 Feb. Week 5 – The Law as a Tool of Empire

- **Introduction, Chapter 1, and Conclusion of Kevin Bruyneel, *The Third Space of Sovereignty: The Postcolonial Politics of U.S.-Indigenous Relations* (2007).
- Deborah Rosen, *Border Law: The First Seminole War and American Nationhood* (2015)

Discussion leaders:

Group 1 (review Rosen)

13 Feb. Week 6 – Settler State Bio-Power and Native Sovereignty: who assigns identity and rights?

- *Bonita Lawrence. "Gender, Race, and the Regulation of Native Identity in Canada and the United States: An Overview" *Hypatia* 18 (2003): 3-31.
- *Audra Simpson, "The State is a Man: Theresa Spence, Loretta Saunders and the Gender of Settler Sovereignty." *Theory & Event* 19 (4), 2016: 1-16,
- *J. Kēhaulani Kauanui, "Colonialism in Equality: Hawaiian Sovereignty and the Question of U.S. Civil Rights," *South Atlantic Quarterly* 107 (2008): 635-650

Discussion leaders:

Week 7 – reading week, February 19 - 23

27 Feb. Week 8 – Queer Settler Colonial Studies

- *T.J. Tallie, "Queering Natal" *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 19 (2013): 167-189
- *Mark Rifkin, "Native Nationality and the Contemporary Queer: Tradition, Sexuality, and History in "Drowning in Fire"." *American Indian Quarterly* 32, no. 4 (2008): 443-470.
- *Scott Lauria Morgensen, "Queer Settler Colonialism in Canada and Israel: Articulating Two-Spirit and Palestinian Queer Critiques." *Settler Colonial Studies* 2, no. 2 (2012): 167-190.

Discussion leaders:

6 Mar. Week 9 – US-American Settler Colonialism

- **Walter Hixson, *American Settler Colonialism: A History* (2013), pp 1-22, 197-202.
- Laurel Clark Shire, *The Threshold of Manifest Destiny: Gender and National Expansion in Florida* (Penn Press, 2016).

Discussion leaders:

Group 2 (review Shire)

13 Mar. Week 10 – Canadian Settler Colonialism

- Sarah Carter, *Imperial Plots: Women, Land, and the Spadework of British Colonialism on the Canadian Prairies* (U Manitoba Press, 2016)

Discussion leaders:

Group 1

20 Mar. Week 11 – Australian Settler Colonialism

- Margaret D. Jacobs, *White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia, 1880-1940* (2009)

Discussion leaders:

Groups 1 & 2

27 Mar. Week 12 – Settler Colonialism in South Africa

- *T.J. Tallie, "Sartorial settlement: the mission field and transformation in colonial Natal, 1850-1897." *Journal of World History*, vol. 27, no. 3 (2016): 389-410
- *Neilesh Bose. "New Settler Colonial Histories at the Edges of Empire: "Asiatics," settlers, and law in colonial South Africa." *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 15, no. 1 (2014).
- *Zine Magubane, "The American Construction of the Poor White Problem in South Africa" *South Atlantic Quarterly* 107 (2008): 691-713

Discussion leaders:

3 Apr. Week 13 - The Settler Colonial Present

- Paulette Regan, *Unsettling the Settler Within: Indian Residential Schools, Truth Telling, and Reconciliation in Canada* (2010).

Discussion leaders:

Group 2

10 Apr. Week 14 – Conclusions?

- Lorenzo Veracini, *Settler Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2010).
- Simpson, Audra. 2016. "Whither Settler Colonialism?" *Settler Colonial Studies* 6 (4): 438-445.
- "Indian Country Diaries Episode 2: Spiral of Fire," Carol Patton Cornsilk (Amazon Instant Video, Weldon)

Discussion leaders:

Groups 1 & 2 (review Veracini)