



CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: SPRING 2023	COURSE NO: POL 335	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: THE POLITICS OF IDENTITY	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, Sechelt, and Tsleil-Waututh people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines identity politics through the lens of political theory. The course analyzes the different kinds of identity categories within liberal democracies and how they become infused with political meaning. It also investigates the strategic issues that identity-based movements face as they develop. Case studies and films are utilized to create a supportive space for critical thinking about categories such as race, ethnicity, Indigeneity, gender, and class. Special attention will be placed upon how the lived experience of intersecting and oppressive forces constitute the basis for emancipatory politics.

COURSE NOTE

POL 335 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

Weekly course readings will be available on eLearn.

Students may be required to access or purchase a book in order to complete a book review as one of their assignments. They may choose their book from a rotating list of possible choices provided by the instructor at the beginning of the term.

Students may be required to access and watch a film on their own time in order to complete a film review as one of their assignments. The instructor will inform students with regards to which film they are required to watch at the beginning of the term.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Explain how economic, political, social, cultural, and colonial forces shape processes of identity formation.
- Identify and interrogate the different kinds of structural oppression, understand how they function and overlap, and begin to visualize how they might be overcome.
- Understand how socially and historically created identities are given positive political form and content through collective organization and mobilization.
- Analyze current debates over concepts such as decolonization, reconciliation, and recognition.
- Research, evaluate, document, and synthesize information from library, online, and media sources.
- Design and write creative short essays that utilize course concepts in order to analyze different forms of media, such as film, journalism, and literature.
- Demonstrate an understanding and critical evaluation of the course readings.

Students who complete this Self and Society course will be able to do the following:

- Explain how contexts (e.g., cultural, historical, colonial, economic, technological) shape identity formation and social structures.
- Identify potential root causes of local/global problems and how they affect local/global cultures, economies, politics, and policies.
- Generate strategies for reconciling Indigenous and Canadian relations.
- Assess and evaluate individual and collective responsibilities within a diverse and interconnected global society.
- Analyse the impact of colonialism and racism on Indigenous peoples.
- Synthesize a range of differing community perspectives on ethics and justice and explain how these perspectives can inform structural change.

COURSE CONTENT

The following units will be covered in the course during the term. A detailed breakdown of reading requirements will be provided in the first week of class.

*Actual authors assigned in any given term may differ from those listed below.

Week	Topic	Authors/Readings
1	Course Introduction: Defining and Debating Identity Politics	Bhikhu Parekh, Kwame Anthony Appiah, Todd McGowan
2	Theories of Identity Formation and Oppression	Iris Marion Young, Michel Foucault
3	Feminism and the Politics of Gender	Simone de Beauvoir, Judith Butler, Sarah Ahmed
4	Trans Identities and Political Movements	Jack Halberstam, Rogers Brubaker, Susan Stryker
5	Black Feminism and Intersectionality	The Combahee River Collective, Audre Lorde, bell hooks, Kimberle Crenshaw

Week	Topic	Authors/Readings
6	State Violence and the Devaluation of Black Lives in Canada	Robyn Maynard, El Jones
7	Capitalism, Ideology, and Working Class Identity	Karl Marx, Luc Boltanski & Eve Chiapello, Mark Fisher
8	Settler Colonial Law and Culture in Canada	Russell Diabo, The Indian Act, Mark Cronlund Anderson & Carmen L. Robertson
9	Indigenous Voices of Resistance and Resurgence	Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Lee Maracle, Taiaiake Alfred
10	Challenging the Colonial Politics of Recognition	Glen Sean Coulthard, Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Audra Simpson
11	Decolonizing the Self	Frantz Fanon, W.E.B. Du Bois, Paulo Friere
12	Backlash: The Rise of White Identity Politics	Ashley Jardina, Linda Martin Alcoff
13	Confronting White Supremacy	James Baldwin, Carol Anderson, W.E.B. Du Bois
14-15	Final Exam Period	

EVALUATION PROFILE

Participation	10%
Oral Assignment (e.g. podcast, presentation)	20%
Written Assignment (e.g. film review, book review)	20%
Research Essay (e.g. representation in media essay)	20%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

Participation: Students are expected to attend classes, be on time, and to complete the readings. Participation grades will be based on punctuality, attendance, demonstration of knowledge of assigned readings, active and positive engagement in class discussions, and ability to raise critical questions and relevant, insightful and clear ideas in class.

GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date listed. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking only.

On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or eLearn; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-life/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information: <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.