

Comprehending Canada

Instructors

Jeffrey Ayres - St. Michael's College (Burlington, U.S.A.)

Magdalena Fiřtová - Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic)

Denisa Krásná - Masaryk University (Brno, Czech Republic)

Richard Nimijean - Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada)

Tomáš Pospíšil - Masaryk University (Brno, Czech Republic)

Students are introduced to the study of Canada and its society, identity, culture, economy, and politics. This course brings together an interdisciplinary team of experts in Canadian Studies whose insights will allow students to gain a better comprehension of Canada. By synthesizing these approaches, we develop a unique and more comprehensive understanding. We explore Canada by looking at its development, its evolving sense of national identity, and the challenges of Canada's ongoing evolution and survival. We look at Canadian people and how they live in Canada. Subjects covered include: national identity, diversity in Canadian society, race, and ethnicity, Indigenous Studies, Canada-US relations and the border, natural resources, the environment, and the economy, immigration and refugee policies, Canadian narratives as seen in culture, film, and literature.

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Schedule:

- June 13: Course opening (12 pm ET, 6 pm CET)
- June 20, 15:00 and 18:00 CET/ 9:00 am and 12 pm EST: National Identity, Diversity, Race, Ethnicity (Nimijean)
- June 21, 15:00 and 18:00 CET/ 9:00 am and 12 pm EST: Indigenous studies, Literature, the Environment (Krasna)
- June 24, 15:00 and 18:00 CET/ 9:00 am and 12 pm EST: Canada-US Relations, the Border, Refugees (Ayres)
- June 25, 15:00 and 18:00 CET/ 9:00 am and 12 pm EST: The Economy, Natural Resources, Immigration (Fiřtová)
- June 26, 15:00 and 18:00 CET/ 9:00 am and 12 pm EST: Culture and Film (Pospíšil)

Course Format

Students will be able to access recorded lectures, readings, and other resources that must be looked at prior to class meetings in a Moodle site (ELF) hosted by Masaryk University. We will then explore subjects in greater detail in twice-daily 90-minute (maximum) meetings.

Credits: 6 ECTS

Contact: den.krasna@mail.muni.cz

Instructors:

Jeffrey Ayres is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations and Director of the Center for Global Engagement, at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont, USA. He teaches courses and conducts research broadly in the areas of comparative and international political economy, regionalism and global governance and Canadian and North American Politics.

Magdalena Fířtová is an assistant professor at the Institute of International Studies Charles University, Prague. Devoted primarily to Canadian studies, her work focuses on the political economy of North America.

Denisa Krásná is a member of the Department of English and American Studies, Masaryk University, Brno. She specializes in Indigenous studies and literatures and Critical Animal Studies, mostly connecting gendered colonial violence and exploitation of nonhuman animals. Additionally, she researches access to the outdoors and outdoor counternarratives. Her co-edited collection *Flow: Outdoor Counternarratives by Women from Rivers, Rock, and Sky* is set to be published by the Canadian publisher *Rocky Mountain Books*.

Richard Nimijean is a member of the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies at Carleton University. His teaching and research focus on the Canadian national identity, the politics of branding Canada, Canada as a global actor, and the field of Canadian Studies.

Tomáš Pospíšil works as an associate professor at the Department of English and American Studies, Masaryk University, Brno. His research areas include Canadian feature film, African American screen representation, and the reception of American culture in the Czech lands.