Studies in Colonial, National, and Diasporic Literatures
Critiquing Multiculturalism

Course Description
This course will examine discourses of cultural identity, race, and nation through the lens of critical multiculturalism. We will begin with the critical problems and affective promises of citizenship by considering various histories of injury and exclusion (i.e. internment, headtax, Komagata Maru, residential schools) as well as movements for redress and apology. From there, we will consider a series of debates on critical multiculturalism in the West that problematize, among other things, fantasies of tolerance and diversity, and query the relationship between diaspora and settler colonialism as well as the limits of multicultural logics. We will then engage with readings that ask us to rethink the work of race in a post 9/11, transnational North American context. Finally, we will conclude by looking at models and practices of multiculturalism in Asia.

Required Reading
There is also a course pack of theoretical readings that includes work by Sara Ahmed, Smaro Kamboureli, Paulette Regan, Glenn Coulthard, Denise Ferreira da Silva, Anne Anlin Cheng, and others.

Course Requirements (subject to change)
20% Position Paper Presentation
20% Position Paper Responses (X2 – each response is worth 10%)
50% 1 article-length paper (18-20 pages)
10% Participation