

ST-Special Regional Topics

Canadian Studies 481

Section: E100

Term: 2000 Spring

Instructor: Allen Seager

Discussion Topics: The role of the West within the federation is increasingly problematical, as the burden of Canada's unity debate oscillates between the Quebec-sovereignty issue and the status of the so-called regions--of which Western Canada is by far the most important. Political challenges at the end of twentieth century have been met with such western initiatives of national significance as the rise of the Reform Party, or the social union and renewed federalism discourses closer to the mainstream.

Western alienation, a political mantra of the Trudeau era, has deep historical roots, as do more positive affirmations of Western Canadian identity. Neither western alienation nor the frustrated Canadian nationalism that lurks beneath its surface show any sign of abating, even though the old National Policy economic framework that was the traditional touchstone of regional grievances has been effectively dismantled. Powerful demands of the First Nations, environmentalists, and other seemingly discrete social movements add to the regional mix. This semester, Canadian Studies 481 will be a combined reading and research seminar designed to illuminate the Western Canadian scene through interdisciplinary perspectives. All students be required to produce an original paper on a topic of their choice.

There will be a three hour seminar each week.

Grading: Participation: 20 %
Review (of one of the course texts) 20%

Research Paper 40%
Take-Home Exam 20%

Required Texts: Required Text:

J. F. Conway, *The West: The History of a Region within Confederation* (History/Sociology)

Roger Gibbins and Arrison, *Western Visions: Perspectives on the West in Canada* (Political Science)

George Melnyk, *Beyo*

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 60 credit hours. Students who have taken this course under CNS 481 Special Topics may not take CNS 481 for further credit

Notes: None

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