



Department of Educational Studies

EDST 509 Constructing Citizens: Canada and the Educational Past

Dr. Mona Gleason (Office hours By Appointment)

Winter Term 2 January – April 2017

Thursdays 4:30 – 7:30pm

PCOH 1302

Course Description

EDST 509 explores how education and schooling have shaped ideas about citizenship in the context of Canada and internationally over the last two centuries. Our exploration highlights what history reveals about the development of ideas regarding citizenship and nation as they have impinged, and continue to impinge, on who was/is considered a citizen over time and context. How have some Canadians' values and beliefs about citizenship shaped the identities of other Canadians both in and out of the classroom? Using a thematic approach, we examine how and why we have inherited institutions and traditions that continue to serve some groups better than others and education's role in this process.

Course Aims

1. Understand the role of education in the historical construction of the nation and citizenship in Canada and elsewhere.
2. Recognize nation building and citizenship as contested processes that shift over time and context.
3. Develop the ability to make connections between the past and present in terms of the construction of nationhood and citizenship.
4. Develop the ability to write effectively and to receive and offer constructive feedback.

Course Resources

Required Text: Anthony Stewart, *Visitor: My Life in Canada* (Toronto: Fernwood Press, 2014), 124 pages. (Paperback available at: <https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/visitor>)

All other course readings are posted on our course Connect site. You will find our course outline and readings linked either as .pdf files or as Library reserve materials. Each weekly seminar meeting is organized around assigned readings intended to be accessible to all students. Some sessions may include document studies. Primary historical documents will introduce you to the kinds of materials historians use to interpret the past. **Seminar readings build on each other, making it necessary to keep up to date and to participate actively in seminar discussions. While an extensive background in history is not required, students are expected to seek advice on additional material to supplement their knowledge if necessary. Please take the initiative in this regard.**