

POSC 4340: Synthesis Assignment #1

Due Date: May 14, 2025 by 9:00 AM Newfoundland Time

Assignment Question: How can we understand classrooms as both spaces of political violence and places for political transformation?

Assignment Objectives: The purpose of this assignment is to compose a short piece of *analytical writing* that integrates a closed set of source material. The challenge is to limit yourself to solely the specified source materials and to apply critical thinking skills to integrate the materials. *The assignment should not be descriptive, evaluative or reflective.* If you need help clarifying the differences amongst analytical writing and these types of writing, visit this quick guide at the University of Reading (<https://libguides.reading.ac.uk/writing/stylesofwriting>) and this document from the Eastern Institute of Technology (https://www2.eit.ac.nz/library/ls_guides_descriptivewriting.html). This how-to guide on synthesis papers from Princeton University may also be helpful to review: <https://writingcenterofprinceton.com/synthesis-essays-a-step-by-step-how-to-guide/> and this resource from Purdue University on synthesizing sources may also support your writing: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/conducting_research/research_overview/synthesizing_sources.html.

Assignment Specifications:

- between 750 and 1000 words (3 to 4 pages double spaced)
- must make reference to the five (5) required learning materials
- must contain a reference list
- both in-text citations and reference list citations must use the **Canadian Journal of Political Science's** style guide (see the short version from the St. Thomas University Writing Centre here: <https://www.stu.ca/media/stu/site-content/current-students/academic-support/docs/CJPS-Style.pdf> or the full version here: <https://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/documents/pdfs/Editorial%20Style%20Guidelines%202008.pdf>)

Required Learning Materials:

1. The four (4) required readings for May 9, 2025:

Becerra, Sandra, Juan Mansilla, Maria Eugenia Merino and Pablo Rivera. 2015. "School Violence Against Mapuche Indigenous Students in Chilean Secondary Schools." *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences* 179 (2015): 1538-1543. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2015.07.107> (August 24, 2023).

Brant, Jennifer. 2023. "Confronting Colonial Violences in and out of the Classroom: Advancing Curricular Moves toward Justice through Indigenous Maternal Pedagogies." *Curriculum Inquiry* 53 (3): 244-267. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03626784.2023.2200809> (August 24, 2023).

Brunette-Debassige, Candace. 2022. "Questioning Colonialism in University Administration." *University Affairs*, January 11. <https://www.universityaffairs.ca/opinion/in-my-opinion/questioning-colonialism-in-university-administration/> (August 24, 2023).

Dixit, Prajwala. 2019. "Is True Decolonization Possible if We Are Still a Dominion?" *CBC News*, June 23. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/pov-prajwala-dixit-is-true-decolonization-possible-1.5184636> (August 24, 2023).