

# SOCI 480 <sup>1</sup>

## Internationalism

Instructor: Dr. Seb Bonet; [sbonet@uvic.ca](mailto:sbonet@uvic.ca) (do reach out if you have questions!)



### Course Description:

In the wake of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, radicals have renewed commitments to internationalism. As students hold down encampments across Turtle Island, anti-war activists blockade weapons manufacturers, and anti-Zionist Jews engage in countless direct actions, Palestinian resistance to settler colonial occupation has inspired new constellations of solidarity to emerge across all manner of divisions and borders. As these constellations take shape, the practices producing them are posing old and new challenges to theorizations of internationalism.

In this course, we will investigate current and historical practices of internationalism. Historically, we will attempt to glean lessons from Tecumseh and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Marx and Bakunin's International Workingmen's Association, and countless other examples, like the anti-globalization movement, the Third World Women's Alliance and the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. In the present, even as we look closely at Palestine, we will also pay attention to internationalism in the context of Oaxaca, the Zapatistas and Haiti.

Cumulatively, these practices pose sharp theoretical questions to people engaging in Third and Fourth world internationalist solidarity. How should organizers respond to the question of armed struggle? What organizational forms produce the webbing that holds immensely diverse coalitions together? How is leadership, strategy and decision-making practiced in internationalist contexts? And, at the intimate scale, how does the stretching demanded by internationalism show up in our relationships, affinity groups and local contexts?

### Course Outcomes/Objectives:

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<sup>1</sup> This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.

A common complaint amongst Sociology students is that, by fourth year, you are intimately acquainted with the many social problems that beset us, and relatively much less aware of efforts to resolve them. This course's primary objective is to counter this phenomenon by foregrounding many historical and contemporary experiments in creating mutualistic alternatives to colonial and imperial domination. And we will do so even as we continue to practice the rigours of Sociology: making careful analytic cuts into the world to better grasp it; apprehending how social logics of oppression are contended with through relations of struggle; and, showing the liberatory role that Sociological theory itself can play by helping us make sense of the world that is to be transformed.

### **Course Pre-requisites/Recommendations:**

**Minimum 4th Year standing; declared Major or Honours in Sociology; or permission from the Instructor.**

### **Course Evaluation:**

Course evaluation will likely include take-home papers with the possibility of alternative, creative assignments agreed to between student(s) and the instructor.

### **Required Resources May Include:**

Readings, videos and podcasts will be posted to CourseSpaces as PDFs or links. It is possible I will choose one book to read in its entirety, in which case it will be made available through the Uvic Bookstore.