

Issues in Canadian Ethnic Relations

Sociology and Anthropology 345

Section: D100

Term: 2003 Summer

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Discussion Topics: Few phenomena have proven to be as emblematic of Canadian society, and as little understood, as immigration, "race" and racism. Who gets to cross the border and what kind of treatment is accorded to newcomers are issues determined by state policies, social institutions and civil society. In this course we will examine the connection between these institutional arrangements and racism. A pragmatic starting point is not whether "race" exists but how this and other socially constructed categories operate in practice. We will focus on the following questions: What role has "race" played in shaping Canadian history? What is "common sense" racism and how does it permeate our institutions and everyday life? What is new racism and how does it relate to ethnicity, culture and aboriginal relations? What are the debates and issues surrounding immigration and refugees? How do groups of people organize against racial oppression and discriminatory practices? What is racial profiling and what are the realities of post 9/11 period?

This course encourages students to debate and discuss these questions through critical readings of class materials, media clippings, film as well as through personal reflections. First we will analyze how racial and other frames of difference are articulated and deployed and with what consequences. We will then reflect on theoretical, political and pedagogical foundations of "multiculturalism" and anti-racism. We will consider the experiences/stories of immigrant/refugee and aboriginal women and the ways in which social institutions and global economy perpetuate gender inequality. We will ask how arbitrary constructs of "race", ethnicity and gender justify differential and inequitable treatment of people.

Students are required to participate actively in class discussions and in-class group work. Students will also explore media and visual representations of race, gender, ethnicity and other forms of difference. Students will have the opportunity to discuss topics of interest to them.

Grading: Book Review: 20%

Group Presentations: 20%

Semester Paper: 40%

Class Participation: 20%

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All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned.

Required Texts: A. Fleras & J. L. Elliott. *Unequal Relations: An Introduction to Race and Ethnic Dynamics in Canada*. 4th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2003.

Sajida Alvi, Sheila McDonough & Homa Hoodfar (editors). *Veiling & Dress Codes in Diaspora: Mu*

Recommended Texts: Patricia Monture-Angus. *Thunder in My Soul: a Mohawk Woman Speaks*. Fernwood, 1995.

Peter Li. *Destination Canada: Immigration Debates and Issues*. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Any two of the following: SA 101, 150, 201.

Notes: The course instructor reserves the right to check for plagiarism using software provided by the SFU administration for this purpose.

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