Ethnic and Racial Tensions

Winter 2021

*\*DRAFT—Subject to Change\**

**Instructor:** Dr. Vic Satzewich

**Email:** satzewic@mcmaster.ca

**Lecture:** Tuesdays 11:30AM - 2:30PM   
**Room:** Virtual, synchronous and asynchronous

**Office:** KTH 635

**Office Hours:** TBA

# Course Description

# Ethnic and racial tensions seem to be ubiquitous, and on the rise, in many countries around the world. Though Canada prides itself on its diversity, tolerance and commitment to multiculturalism, it is clear that Canada also has its share of challenges dealing with ethnic and racial tensions. This course aims to introduce students to some of the main concepts, controversies, approaches and techniques to studying racism and discrimination in Canadian society. It focuses on issues related to: the distinction between racialization and racism; how to define racism; patterns of systemic discrimination; redressing historical wrongs; and Islamophobia.

# Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

* Define the difference between racialization and racism
* Conduct research on how to measure racism in Canadian society
* Evaluate the debates about racial profiling and policing
* Describe how ‘race’ is measured in the Canadian Census
* Assess the strengths and weaknesses associated with how societies deal with racial discrimination and tensions
* Propose and design a research paper that addresses a sociological question related to ethnic and racial tensions.

# Required Materials and Texts

Robert Miles and Malcom Brown. 2003. *Racism (2nd edition)*. London: Routledge.

On-line readings, available via Avenue to Learn

# Class Format

# The course will be a blended mix of asynchronous lectures and synchronous discussions

# Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Measuring racism survey assignment, 30 %: due March 2 (Details to be provided)
2. Reparations for slavery assignment, 30% due March 30 (Details to be provided)
3. Term paper, 40% due April 21 (Details to be provided)

# Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

## 

**January 12**—Introduction

**January 19**— Lecture and discussion. The concept of race: the social construction of ‘race’ and ‘race passing’, Rachel Dolezal, Grey Owl.

Read: Miles and Brown, *Racism*, Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 4 (pp. 87-103 only)

Watch: Grey Owl: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvEjsA7wW2w>

**January 26**—Lecture and Discussion. Measuring race/mixed ‘race’: Race, Ethnicity and the Canadian Census

Read: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/statistics-canada-takes-second-look-at-ethnicity-question-on-census-1.4529781>

Watch: *The Other Race*—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfM-F172548>

**February 2**— Lecture and Discussion: The concept of racism.

Read: Miles and Brown, *Racism*, chapters 2 and 3

**February 9**—Lecture and Discussion: Measuring Racism

Read: The Canadian Journal for Social Research, 2010, ‘Measuring Racism’ (articles by Samuel and Verma, Galabuzi, Satzewich, pp. 2-57). <https://www.crrf-fcrr.ca/images/stories/pdf/directions/directionsVol6No1-MeasuringRacism.pdf>

Canadian Race Relations Foundation, 2019. *Race Relations in Canada 2019*. <https://www.crrf-fcrr.ca/images/Race_Relations_in_Canada_2019_Survey_-_FINAL_REPORT_ENGLISH.pdf>

Environics, 2020. ‘Canadian public Opinion About Racism and Discrimination’. <https://www.environicsinstitute.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/focus-canada-fall-2020---race-relations-in-canada---final-report16153960184c4f1d8537e9c5e4b0b848.pdf?sfvrsn=e7597635_0>

**February 16**—Mid=Term Break

**February 23**—Lecture and Discussion: Institutional racism and Social Inequality

Read: Miles and Brown, Racism, chapter 4 (pp. 103-112) and chapter 5.

Mary Eberts, Kim Stanton and Lara Koerner Yeo, 2020. ‘RCMP Must Acknowledge the Force’s Racist Underpinnings’, <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/july-2020/rcmp-must-acknowledge-the-forces-racist-underpinnings/>

Sheila Block, Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Ricardo Tranjan, 2019. *Canada’s Colour Coded Income Inequality*, <https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2019/12/Canada%27s%20Colour%20Coded%20Income%20Inequality.pdf>

Colour of Poverty, 2019. *Fact Sheets*. <https://colourofpoverty.ca/fact-sheets/>

**March 2**—Informal break week

Note: Measuring Racism Assignment Due.

**March 9**—Synchronous Discussion. Term paper writing session. We play a fun game called ‘good question/bad question’. In this session I/we will critique your ideas for a term paper. It’s more fun than it sounds.

**March 16**— Lecture and Discussion: Redressing Historical Wrongs, Apologies and Compensation

Read: Derek Hum and Barry Ferguson, 2009. ‘How Should Canada Redress Historical Injustice? Lessons of the Chinese head Tax’, <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/our-history/historic-places/documents/heritage/chinese-legacy/written-submissions/hum_derek.pdf>

Travis Tomcuck and Jodi Giebrecht, 2018, *Redress Movements in Canada*. <https://cha-shc.ca/_uploads/5c374fce94f80.pdf>

# Watch: Canada Apologizes for Racist Incident 100 Years After Rejecting Komagata Maru Ship of 370 Immigrants, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIZUpTxdYZw>

Or,

Watch: In the Shadow of Gold Mountain, <https://discovery.mcmaster.ca/iii/encore/plus/C__SIn%20the%20shadow%20of%20gold%20mountain__Orightresult__U?lang=eng&suite=def>

**March 23**—Lecture and Discussion: Policing and Racism

Readings: Ontario Human Rights Commission, ‘Under Suspicion: Research and Consultation Report on Racial Profiling in Ontario’ (Avenue)

Ron Melchers, ‘Inequality Before the Law: The Canadian Experience of “Racial Profiling”’ (Avenue)

Tamari Kitossa, 2014. ‘Authoritarian Criminology and the Racial Profiling Debate in Canada: Scientism as Epistemic Violence’. <http://bsc.chadwyck.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/bsc/toc.do?SearchEngine=Opentext&offset=18476736&divLevel=2&action=expand&queryId=#scroll>

Listen: Podcast-- ‘What are Canadian Police (Still) Trying to Hide?’ <https://www.citedpodcast.com/podcast/what-are-canadian-cops-hiding-rebroadcast/>

**March 30**—Lecture and Discussion: Islamophobia and the Reasonable Accommodation Debate in Quebec

Gerard Bouchard and Charles Taylor, 2008. Building the Future: A Time for Reconciliation, <https://red.pucp.edu.pe/ridei/wp-content/uploads/biblioteca/buildingthefutureGerardBouchardycharlestaylor.pdf>

Notes: Reparations for Slavery Assignment Due

**April 6**--What can be done about racism? Employment Equity, Human Rights Legislation, and Diversity Training.

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, ‘Pocket Guide to Employment Equity’, <https://pipsc.ca/labour-relations/stewards/pocket-guides/pocket-guide-employment-equity>

The Canadian Human Rights Commission, <https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/eng>

**April 13**—wrap up

# Course Policies

## Submission of Assignments

## Assignments should be submitted in the dropbox on Avenue to Learn

## Late Assignments

Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of 1 mark per day that they are late.

## Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

## Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

# University Policies

## Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academiccredentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academiccredit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity)**.**

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty

* Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
* Improper collaboration in group work.
* Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](https://sas.mcmaster.ca/) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca%20) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [*Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities*](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf)policy.

## Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a [RISO](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2019/02/Academic-Accommodation-for-Religious-Indigenous-and-Spiritual-Observances-Policy-on.pdf) accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Code-of-Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities.pdf) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

## Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

## Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

| **MARK** | **GRADE** |
| --- | --- |
| 90-100 | A+ |
| 85-89 | A |
| 80-84 | A- |
| 77-79 | B+ |
| 73-76 | B |
| 70-72 | B- |
| 67-69 | C+ |
| 63-66 | C |
| 60-62 | C- |
| 57-59 | D+ |
| 53-56 | D |
| 50-52 | D- |
| 0-49 | F |